

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 8, 2017

The Honorable Robert Lighthizer
U.S. Trade Representative
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

As you seek Congressional input regarding improvements to the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), we, the undersigned, ask you to consider the following principles to protect American energy consumers and producers and enhance U.S. energy security.

NAFTA has played a key role in all North American energy markets including electricity, renewable, oil, and natural gas, as each market is highly integrated with and remains dependent on vital energy infrastructure and trade crossings that border the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Free trade – and free trade agreements (FTA) such as NAFTA – allows the United States to maximize the benefits of being the world's largest energy producer.

The North American energy industry has undergone dramatic changes since NAFTA entered into force twenty-three years ago. Specifically, the United States has exponentially increased resource production, making it the global leader in oil and natural gas production. Mexico has opened its energy sector to foreign investment for the first time in over seventy-five years. In Canada, investment and innovation in oil sands, liquefied natural gas or LNG, and energy infrastructure projects have turned Canada into a top five energy producer.


Therefore, we offer the following points:

- **Free flows** across U.S.-Canada-Mexico borders of all energy products including electricity, oil, and natural gas, as well as derived products such as refined products, petrochemicals or other energy-intensive manufactured goods;
- **Zero tariffs** for the imports and exports across the United States, Mexico, and Canada of all energy products;
- **Open access for U.S. investors** to Mexico and Canada's energy markets, with competitive and transparent bidding for (a) licenses (such as oil and natural gas mineral licenses) and (b) sourcing of labor and materials;
- **Protections for U.S. investors** in Mexico and Canada consistent with U.S. law and practice;
- **Safeguard and strengthen intellectual property rights;**
- **Free flow of data** across the United States, Mexico, and Canada borders;

As you seek input from other stakeholders, members of Congress, and the public, we hope you consider including these principles in any new free trade agreements as a way to protect American energy consumers and ensure our energy supply continues to grow.

Sincerely,


JOHN CORNYN
United States Senator


HEIDI HEITKAMP
United States Senator



TED CRUZ
United States Senator


STEVE DAINES
United States Senator


JOHN HOEVEN
United States Senator


JAMES M. INHOFE
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LISA MURKOWSKI
United States Senator