

July 25, 2019

The Honorable Madeleine Dean
129 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Susan Wild
1607 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chrissy Houlahan
1218 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Dean, Houlahan and Wild:

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association, I strongly encourage you to move your caucus toward a swift ratification vote of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

USMCA is widely seen as an improvement over NAFTA and its ratification by Congress will help create American jobs, cultivate innovation, and spur economic growth while also strengthening protections for workers and the environment.

The Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association (PFMA) is a statewide trade association advocating the views of convenience stores, supermarkets, independent grocers, wholesalers and consumer product vendors operating in Pennsylvania. PFMA's membership consists of national chain stores, regional chains and locally owned independent retailers of all sizes. Our 800+ corporate members operate more than 3,500 retail food stores and employ more than 200,000 Pennsylvanians.

As international trade, especially trade with Mexico and Canada, is a major economic driver and job supporter here in Pennsylvania and in the United States as a whole, the ramifications of a failure to ratify USMCA could be disastrous. According to [Trade Partnership](#) and [Brookings](#) data:

- Over 1.5 million jobs are connected to trade in Pennsylvania;
- Trade with Canada and Mexico supported 478,000 jobs in 2017;
- Pennsylvania exported \$69.8 billion worth of goods and services in 2017;
- \$16.8 billion of those total exports went to Canada and Mexico; and
- 9% of our gross domestic product (GDP) depends on exports in Pennsylvania.

And, according to a U.S. International Trade Commission [economic analysis](#), USMCA would create 176,000 new U.S jobs, raise the U.S. real GDP by \$68.2 billion, and boost both exports and imports with Canada and Mexico. Exports



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would grow by 5.9% and 6.7% in Canada and Mexico, respectively; while imports would grow by 4.8% and 3.8%, respectively. As a whole, the economic gains from USMCA, coupled with existing economic outputs, are substantial.

Given the broader political dynamics, as we draw closer to the 2020 election cycle any substantive delays in a USMCA ratification vote will imperil Congress' ability to approve this necessary deal. Mexico has ratified USMCA and Canada is well on its way. We highly encourage you to work with your colleagues to quickly move our United States Congress in that direction as well. The opportunity window is small. Please accelerate ratification of USMCA so the American economy can have the certainty that it needs to thrive.

Sincerely,



Alex Baloga
President & CEO