

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4005

October 27, 2017

Chairman Kevin Brady
House Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Richard Neal
House Committee on Ways and Means
1106 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Brady and Ranking Member Neal:

Since it was first established in 1976, Congress has reauthorized the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) repeatedly with bipartisan, bicameral support. The current authorization, passed by Congress in June 2015, expires on December 31, 2017. As Congress considers its legislative priorities for the remainder of 2017, we urge the Committee to advance a long-term GSP extension as quickly as possible.

GSP eliminates U.S. import tariffs on non-sensitive products imported from more than 120 developing countries. These taxes otherwise would be paid by American manufacturers, farmers, and consumers. In 2016, GSP eliminated about \$730 million in tariffs. Nearly two-thirds of GSP imports were raw materials, components, and machinery, where lower tariffs helped American manufacturers and workers compete in a tough global economy. By lowering costs for consumer goods and food products, many of which are not available in the United States, GSP increases product choices and helps American workers and families.

GSP also plays an important role in U.S. foreign and commercial policy. Incentives to source from GSP countries help promote development in some of the poorest countries in the world. GSP's long list of eligibility criteria gives the United States a tool to encourage beneficiary countries to improve labor practices, protect intellectual property rights, treat U.S. investors fairly, and open their markets to U.S. goods and services.

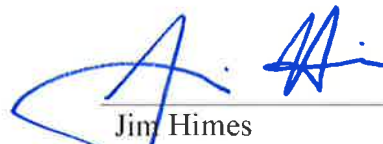
Failure to reauthorize GSP before it expires could cause U.S. companies to lay off workers, reduce wages and benefits, and reduce investment. The looming expiration is causing new uncertainty for U.S. companies that rely upon the GSP program, many of which already are placing orders for delivery in 2018.

In conclusion, the GSP program has a strong track record of promoting economic development and jobs both in the United States and abroad, but uncertainty about renewal hinders those benefits. We believe Congress should pass a long-term reauthorization of the GSP program as quickly as possible so American companies can have the certainty needed to invest in their businesses, workers, and communities.

Sincerely,



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Jim Himes
Member of Congress



Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



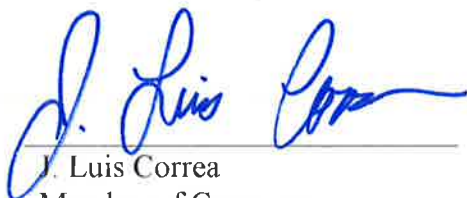
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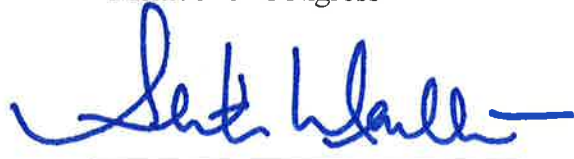


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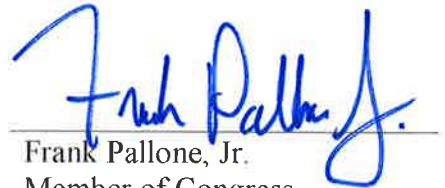

C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger
Member of Congress


Carol Shea-Porter
Member of Congress

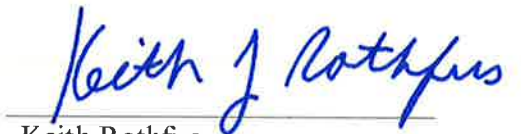

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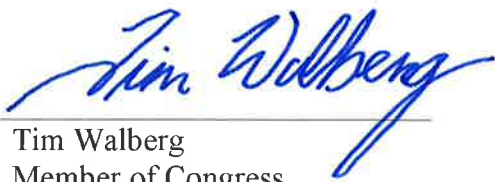

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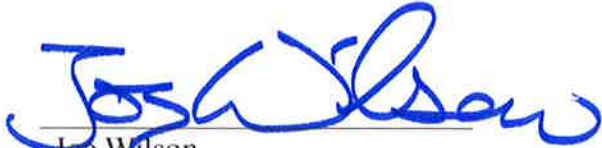

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