

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 17, 2012

Dear Colleagues:

We commend to your attention a report prepared by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, entitled NAFTA Triumphant: Assessing Two Decades of Gains in Trade, Growth, and Jobs, which can be found [here](#). This report highlights the tremendous gains to our economy and our workforce that have been achieved through expanded trade with our two closest neighbors in the 20 years since NAFTA was signed on December 17, 1992. Trilateral trade has soared by 350% during the last two decades, reaching \$1.2 trillion annually, or more than \$3.2 billion *every single day*. This constant flow of goods, services, and capital directly supports nearly 12 million American jobs, 5 million of which are attributable to the increased trade brought about by NAFTA.

These benefits are evident across virtually every state, in every sector, and in businesses of every size. From Los Angeles to Dallas to Chicago to Boston, our workers and businesses have enjoyed significant new opportunities because of NAFTA, particularly in the manufacturing and agricultural sectors. As this report demonstrates, U.S. manufacturing output climbed 73% between 1993 and 2011. Today Canada and Mexico are the two largest destinations for U.S. goods, accounting for one-third of total goods exports, or \$478 billion in 2011. The boost for our farmers and ranchers has been even more dramatic. Agricultural exports to Canada have grown by 258%, and to Mexico by 408%. This dramatic increase in trade has accelerated growth in good economic times and helped to alleviate hardship in bad economic times.

As the report's authors write, "NAFTA has supported millions of good jobs, raised standards of living, and enhanced the competitiveness of North American industry in a rapidly changing global economy." They also rightly point out that we cannot afford to become complacent in our success. We must continue to build and expand upon the advancements of the last 20 years. Significant opportunities to tear down barriers, particularly non-tariff barriers, remain. We need a robust trade agenda that advances our goal of enhanced trade, not just in North America, but throughout the worldwide marketplace. Our ailing economy and struggling workforce demand a concerted effort to boost American competitiveness through greater trade liberalization.

Sincerely,

David Dreier

Member of Congress

Pete Sessions

Member of Congress