

May 8, 2017

The United States Senate
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

To the Members of the U.S. Senate:

With the world's most productive manufacturing sector in the world, but growing global competition, manufacturers in the United States need robust trade policies and agreements that open markets, protect U.S. property and standards and ensure strong enforcement of core rules of fairness in the global economy.

The nomination of Ambassador Robert Lighthizer to be the U.S. Trade Representative is welcomed by the manufacturing industry given his long experience working to eliminate foreign market-distorting unfair trade practices and create new opportunities in international markets both during his time in government and the private sector.

The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) serves a vital role in promoting and implementing U.S. trade policy. The USTR is the lead U.S. negotiator on trade agreements and has responsibility for enforcing trade agreements and advising the U.S. government on international trade policies. The USTR is charged with implementing key trade statutes, including those requiring work to identify and address unfair trade barriers and weaknesses in foreign government intellectual property enforcement and protection.

With world trade in manufactured goods having quadrupled over the last quarter century, trade has never been more important to manufacturers. Manufacturers in the United States need better access to growing global markets overseas where hundreds of millions of consumers have joined the middle class in the last decade. At the same time, growing foreign market-distorting practices and unfair trade practices are on the rise requiring strong trade enforcement consistent with the international trade rules to create a level playing field for manufacturers in the United States.

We encourage senators to confirm Ambassador Lighthizer swiftly and without delay. The sooner he gets to work, the sooner we can strengthen the global competitiveness of manufacturing in the United States.

Sincerely,

Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed)
Aerospace Industries Association (AIA)
Air-Conditioning, Heating & Refrigeration Institute
Alaska Chamber
The Aluminum Association
American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)
American Chemistry Council
American Coatings Association
American Composites Manufacturers Association
American Fiber Manufacturers Association

American Forest & Paper Association
American Foundry Society
American Iron and Steel Institute
American Supply Association
American Wire Producers Association
Arizona Manufacturers Council
Associated Equipment Distributors
Can Manufacturers Institute
Consumer Specialty Products Association
Cookware Manufacturers Association
Corn Refiners Association
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States
Fabricators and Manufacturers Association, International
Fashion Accessories Shippers Association (FASA)
Gemini Shippers Group
Glass Packaging Institute
Greater North Dakota Chamber
Hardwood Federation
INDA, Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry
Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI)
International Dairy Foods Association
International Sleep Products Association
Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association (KCMA)
Measurement, Control & Automation Association
Metal Powder Industries Federation
Metals Service Center Institute
Michigan Manufacturers Association
Missouri Association of Manufacturers
Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association
National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)
National Confectioners Association
National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association
National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Shooting Sports Foundation
Natural Gas Supply Association
Nevada Manufacturers Association
Northeast PA Manufacturers & Employers Association
Outdoor Industry Association
Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America
The Plastics Industry Association
Plumbing Manufacturers International
Recreation Vehicle Industry Association
Rhode Island Manufacturers Association
Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA)

Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates (SOCMA)
Steel Manufacturers Association
Texas Association of Manufacturers
Toy Industry Association
Travel Goods Association (TGA)
The Vinyl Institute