

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

JUL 09 2012

Dear Mr. Speaker:

On behalf of President Obama, I am pleased to notify the Congress that we intend to include Mexico in the ongoing negotiations of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement. As I stated in my December 2009 letter notifying the Congress of our intention to enter into the TPP negotiations, the United States views a TPP Agreement as a means to advance U.S. economic interests with the fastest-growing economies in the world and as a potential platform for economic integration across the Asia-Pacific region. In addition, a TPP Agreement will serve as a tool to expand U.S. exports, something that is critical to our economic recovery and the creation and retention of high-paying, high-quality jobs in the United States. Mexico's participation in the TPP negotiations will contribute meaningfully to these goals and to the development of the high-standard, 21<sup>st</sup> century, regional trade agreement we are seeking.

Expanding the negotiations to include additional countries throughout the Asia-Pacific region has been a longstanding U.S. objective. Mexico's participation advances this goal and further increases the economic significance of a TPP Agreement.

Mexico is already the second most important destination for U.S. exports. In 2011, U.S. exports to Mexico totaled \$224 billion, of which non-agricultural goods were \$180 billion, agricultural goods were \$18 billion, and services were \$25 billion. Last year, U.S. goods exports to Mexico were up 21 percent over the previous year, and up 376 percent from 1993, immediately prior to the entry into force of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Mexico's participation in a TPP Agreement will ensure that we have a cutting-edge agreement in place between us that will further enhance our trade relationship and benefit U.S. workers, manufacturers, service suppliers, farmers, ranchers, small businesses, and consumers.

We have conducted in-depth discussions with Mexico about the standards and objectives that the TPP countries are seeking, particularly in those areas where the standards or objectives are higher than those that exist in the NAFTA. Mexico has assured us of its willingness to negotiate on these issues and its preparedness to achieve these high standards together with the other TPP countries.

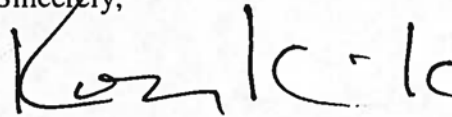
We will continue to consult rigorously and extensively with Congress on all elements of the TPP as the negotiations proceed. As we have done thus far, we will work with Congress as we use the TPP Agreement to promote new technologies and emerging economic sectors, create new opportunities for U.S. small- and medium-sized businesses to increase exports to the region, and help U.S. firms participate in production and supply chains in order to encourage investment and production in the United States. In addition, we will continue to consult closely with Congress

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on elements related to environmental protection and conservation, transparency, workers rights and protections, and development.

We value the partnership we have established with Congress on the TPP negotiations and look forward to maintaining it as we continue the negotiations to conclude this important new agreement.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Kirk". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping "R" and "K".

Ambassador Ron Kirk

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

The Honorable Daniel Inouye  
President Pro Tempore  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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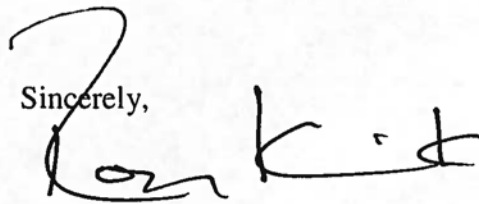
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Ambassador Ron Kirk