

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0908

June 29, 2021

The Honorable Katherine Tai
U.S. Trade Representative
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Tai:

As you move to establish your early priorities, we are pleased to see that the resumption of talks with Taiwan under the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) is among your areas of focus. The last TIFA meeting was held in October 2016, which is far too long ago when one considers Taiwan's importance as a trade partner to the United States. For this reason, we were gratified to see reports that you held a virtual meeting with Taiwan's top trade official, John Deng, on June 9, 2021 and committed to reconvene TIFA talks in the coming weeks. We respectfully request that you prioritize these talks and take steps to begin laying the groundwork for negotiation of a free trade agreement (FTA), or other preliminary agreement, with Taiwan.

In August 2020, Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen announced her intention to remove, and later removed, what had been a major obstacle to the pursuit of a FTA: import restrictions on certain U.S. beef and pork products. It is now time for the United States to reciprocate and begin negotiations. It is clear that the United States stands to gain much in doing so.

Taiwan is the tenth largest trading partner of the United States—surpassing more populous nations such as India, France, and Italy—and the eighth largest market for American agricultural products. It embraces high standards of labor rights and environmental protection. We can all be confident that an agreement negotiated with Taiwan could serve as a model for what a high-standard FTA should look like. It will facilitate free trade under fair conditions that allow American workers, producers, and companies alike to flourish. Advanced economies such as Singapore and New Zealand have paved the way by signing their own FTAs with Taiwan.

Beyond commerce and investment, Taiwan has proven itself to be a true friend to the United States and a model of a vibrant democracy. While Chinese authorities denied American companies operating in China the ability to send personal protective equipment (PPE) back home during the pandemic, Taiwan stood up production lines of PPE for the United States when we were most in need. Despite Beijing's endless efforts to isolate and bully, Taiwan remains everything we want the Indo-Pacific region to be: a democratic, free market economy that is a reliable partner to the United States. Lastly, trade talks with Taiwan are also of great strategic importance. Maintaining U.S. economic influence in the region and reducing Taiwan's dependence on China is essential to ensuring that the region remains free and open.

Thank you again for committing to resume TIFA talks with Taiwan in the coming weeks. We appreciate your continued attention to this important matter.

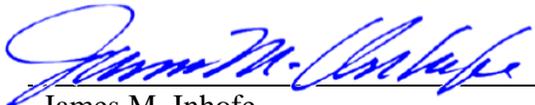
Sincerely,



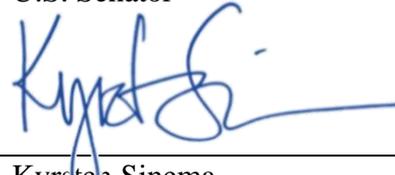
Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



Mark Warner
U.S. Senator



James M. Inhofe
U.S. Senator



Kyrsten Sinema
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Thom Tillis
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Christopher A. Coons
U.S. Senator



Shelley Moore Capito
U.S. Senator



Joe Manchin
U.S. Senator



John Boozman
U.S. Senator



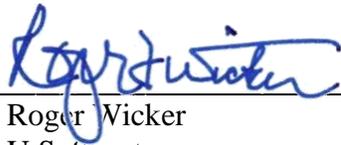
Tim Kaine
U.S. Senator



Tom Cotton
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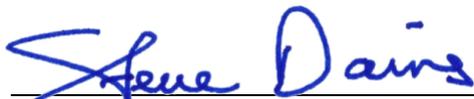
Kevin Cramer
U.S. Senator



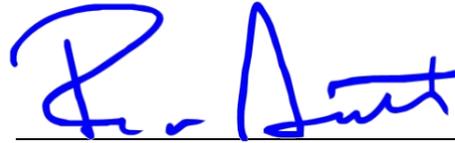
Roger Wicker
U.S. Senator



Todd Young
U.S. Senator



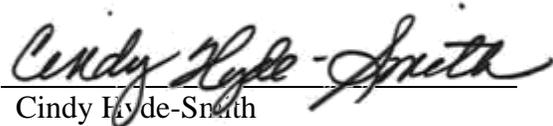
Steve Daines
U.S. Senator



Rick Scott
U.S. Senator



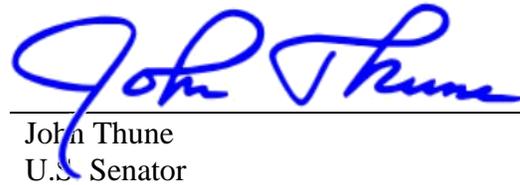
Ben Sasse
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Cindy Hyde-Smith
U.S. Senator



John Barrasso, M.D.
U.S. Senator



John Thune
U.S. Senator



Tim Scott
U.S. Senator



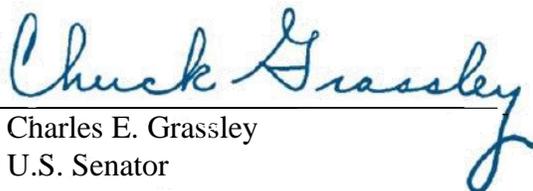
Mike Braun
U.S. Senator



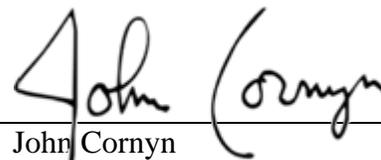
Roy Blunt
U.S. Senator



Michael S. Lee
U.S. Senator



Charles E. Grassley
U.S. Senator



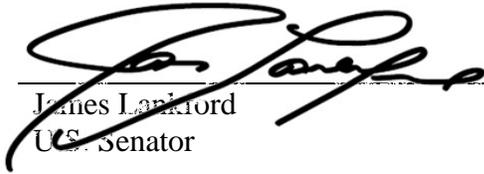
John Cornyn
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M. Michael Rounds
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James Lankford
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Rand Paul, M.D.
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Lindsey O. Graham
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Deb Fischer
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Dan Sullivan
U.S. Senator



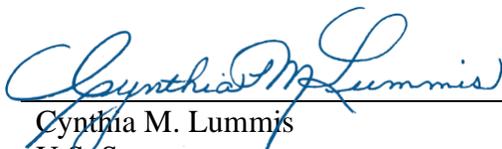
Ted Cruz
U.S. Senator



John Hoeven
U.S. Senator



Roger Marshall, M.D.
U.S. Senator



Cynthia M. Lummis
U.S. Senator



Susan Collins
U.S. Senator



Pat Toomey
U.S. Senator



Bill Hagerty
U.S. Senator