Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 17, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Majority Leader
US Senate
S-230, United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Majority Leader McConnell,

We write today to encourage you to pass the United States Mexico Canada Agreement (USMCA) before the end of the year. We are deeply concerned by your statements that the Senate will not take up the USMCA this year and that you refuse to pass any legislative items during January – including the USMCA. The Senate cannot leave for recess until you pass the USMCA.

The House of Representatives is set to deliver a trade deal that provides more certainty to our farmers and better protects working families. Speaker Pelosi and the House Working Groups worked diligently with U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer to finalize an agreement that defends American interests. The result of these negotiations is a bipartisan agreement that protects and expands markets for agriculture, guarantees more labor and environmental protections and will not lock-in high prescription drug prices.

Trade agreements of the past have failed to protect American workers and American-made products. The President has cited American jobs killed by NAFTA as the reason for renegotiating the trade deal. The House Working Groups have been hard at work since receiving USMCA to ensure this trade deal does not repeat the mistakes of the past.

Over the last year, many of our colleagues in the Senate have expressed support for USMCA and their desire to move this deal as quickly as possible. We have completed the heavy lifting of negotiations and compromise and will send you a bipartisan trade agreement that the President himself supports.

USMCA cannot end up in the Senate's Legislative Graveyard. We are proud to submit a completed USMCA to your desk for a vote, along with the hundreds of other bills we have passed and sent to the Senate that you have not brought up this year. The House has done its job and it will be on the Senate to pass it.

Sincerely,

Cindy Axne
Member of Congress

Abby Finkenauer
Member of Congress

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