Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

July 11, 2023

The Honorable Jason Smith Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard E. Neal Ranking Member of the House Committee on Ways and Means United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Neal:

Strategic competition with China is one of the defining issues of the 118th Congress. Reducing U.S. reliance on China is a policy goal shared by many across the political spectrum, as well as many American companies. We hope to work with you and the Ways and Means Committee on bipartisan legislation to help facilitate supply chain shifts out of China, including renewal of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program.

Established in 1974, GSP is the United States' oldest and largest trade preference program. GSP boosts trade and economic development by eliminating tariffs on non-sensitive goods from 119 qualifying developing countries. Congress has renewed GSP repeatedly with overwhelming bipartisan support. While the House last renewed GSP by a vote of 400-2, this authorization expired on December 31, 2020.

GSP can play a critical role in helping American companies find non-Chinese suppliers. China has never qualified for GSP benefits, but many of its competitors do. GSP can result in tariff savings averaging 5 percent on all products, and frequently rising to 20 percent. Nearly all GSP-eligible products also are subject to Section 301 tariffs when imported from China, so GSP can provide tariff advantages as high as 45 percent for key products compared to China.

China is benefiting significantly from GSP expiration, which has led to over \$2.5 billion in extra tariffs on \$45 billion in imports from China's developing country competitors. American companies that reduced imports from China from 2018-2020 in response to Section 301 tariffs – the very action Congress seeks to encourage – have borne much of the GSP expiration costs. These U.S. importers have had to choose between raising prices on consumers or finding cheaper places to source products and industrial inputs, including returning to China. This undesirable trend will continue to worsen as long as GSP remains expired.

GSP renewal would benefit American firms and families. Lower tariffs on inputs and parts helps U.S. manufacturers stay competitive in global markets. GSP benefits for consumer goods help American families stretch their paychecks further. Renewal also would demonstrate U.S. trade leadership to GSP partner countries and allies around the world.

Legislation to renew GSP, including smart changes to make GSP countries more viable alternatives to China, would enjoy broad, bipartisan support. We look forward to working with you to pass such legislation as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Vake Auchincloss Member of Congress

Neal P. Dunn, M.D. Member of Congress

Mike Gallagher Member of Congress

Raja Krishnamoorthi Member of Congress

Sail I Bully Carta

Earl L. "Buddy" Carter Member of Congress

Wiley Nickel Member of Congress

Gus M. Bilirakis Member of Congress

David Scott Member of Congress

John H. Rutherford Member of Congress

Andy Kim Member of Congress

André Carson

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Troy Balderson Member of Congress

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Ken Buck Member of Congress

Tim Burchett Member of Congress

Susar/Wild Member of Congress

Doug LaMalfa Member of Congress

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Harold Rogers Member of Congress

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Cory Mills Member of Congress

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