

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 10, 2016

The Honorable Michael Froman
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

The Honorable Penny Pritzker
Secretary of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Ambassador Froman and Secretary Pritzker:

As we begin 2016, we write to commend your efforts to improve U.S. and India ties, in particular your work to reinvigorate the U.S.-India Strategic and Commercial Dialogue (S&CD) and the U.S.-India Trade Policy Forum (TPF). High level engagement between the United States and India can serve to level the playing field for American producers, exporters, and investors in India. To date, however, these dialogues have unfortunately yielded few concrete results.

We believe the effectiveness of the S&CD and TPF would be enhanced by allowing direct private sector participation in these dialogues similar to what exists in the U.S.-China Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT). The JCCT and its working groups provide multiple formal and informal mechanisms for industry to provide input. The JCCT structure includes working groups targeting specific issues or sectors that meet throughout the year, several vice minister-level exchanges, and a full plenary session, which is usually held at the end of the year. Direct private sector participation in the JCCT has led to improved understanding by Chinese officials of U.S. industry concerns and helped catalyze progress in a variety of areas over the years, including in government procurement, medical devices, and intellectual property rights (IPR).

Private sector involvement could be particularly useful to advance IPR issues as part of the TPF discussions. As USTR stated in last year's Special 301 report, "[a]ttention to our IPR priorities and action to resolve concerns through bilateral fora can benefit both the United States and India." In announcing that report, USTR made clear its expectation that India would make "substantive and measurable improvements in India's IPR regime for the benefit of a broad range of innovative and creative industries," and that "[t]he United States . . . will monitor progress over the coming months, and [is] prepared to take further action, if necessary." We recognize that the new Modi government has taken steps to evaluate the Indian IPR environment and will shortly be releasing a National IPR Policy document. Unfortunately, a recent U.S. International

Trade Commission report found that in its first year in office, the Modi government enacted no new laws to address IPR-related barriers.

With direct private sector involvement and input, the S&CD and TPF can perhaps better serve to generate substantive improvements in India's business climate, on IPR and other areas of concern. Thank you for consideration of our requests. Please let us know how we can work together towards these goals and others to address longstanding concerns with India's industrial policies.

Sincerely,



Erik Paulsen
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress



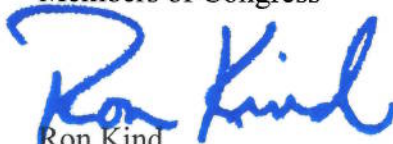
Charles W. Boustany Jr., MD
Member of Congress



Richard E. Neal
Members of Congress



Jim Renacci
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Tom Reed
Member of Congress



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Jason Smith
Member of Congress



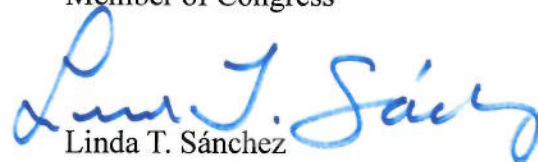
Dave Reichert
Member of Congress



Patrick J. Tiberi
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress