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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

October 31, 2013

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

Dear Ambassador Froman,

I write to express concern regarding ongoing negotiations over the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). While I appreciate the Administration's outreach efforts, I am concerned with the perceived rush of USTR to conclude TPP negotiations by the end of this year. It is important Congress be given the opportunity to fulfill its Constitutional requirements under Article 1, Section 8 and have the opportunity to provide thoughtful input to the process and the specific content contained.

I support the Administration's goals in promoting export opportunities and removing barriers to foreign investment. However, the TPP will be the largest multilateral free trade agreement ever negotiated by the United States and to date no public text has been released. The scope of authority and issues addressed in this agreement contain 29 separate sections affecting all parts of the economy for decades to come. With TPA expiring in 2007 it is important Congress play a role in providing guidance to our Trade Representatives as they engage in negotiations.

I support opening new export markets for Colorado companies while balancing the need to retaining good paying jobs for my constituents, safeguarding the environment, ensuring the protection of intellectual property rights and worker rights, and improving the quality of life throughout the country. At the very least, USTR must insist on including labor and environmental standards within the TPP agreement that are fully enforceable and have the same dispute settlement mechanism as the commercial sections.

I look forward to working with you to ensure Congress helps your administration meet these goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Perlmutter', written over a white background.

Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress