

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 21, 2024

The Honorable Katherine C. Tai
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Tai:

We write to urge you to transition discussions on the U.S.-Kenya Strategic Trade and Investment Partnership (STIP) into negotiations of a comprehensive, high-standard, and enforceable free trade agreement (FTA) with the Republic of Kenya.

Kenya is among the world's fastest-growing economies, and it serves as a stable point of entry into numerous other markets throughout sub-Saharan Africa. Kenya has also shown a strong commitment to environmental stewardship and has been a leader in addressing the climate crisis. A comprehensive and high-standard U.S.-Kenya FTA with reciprocal market access commitments that reflect our shared aspirations and democratic values would allow U.S. businesses to tap into this growing market and expand economic opportunity for American workers, innovators, farmers, and ranchers. The United States has already had significant success opening our market to Kenyan imports through the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA). You now have a unique opportunity to ensure Americans can enjoy similar access to the Kenyan market through robust and durable two-way trade, while strengthening worker rights, human rights, environmental protections, and good governance in Kenya.

As Africa changes, so must our approach to the continent. While we support and look forward to renewing and reforming AGOA, unilateral preferences can only go so far to increase development and ensure sustainable and inclusive economic partnerships. We were pleased to see you launch the STIP in July 2022, and we are encouraged by the diligent work that you and your team have done to make progress on these talks. However, we implore you to do more. Kenya has made it clear that it welcomes deeper economic engagement with the United States and stands ready to negotiate a comprehensive FTA that reflects the changing dynamics of the global economy.

A U.S.-Kenya FTA, with strong and innovative rules and enforcement mechanisms, would enhance U.S. competitiveness in Kenya and encourage the Kenyan government to make high-standard commitments and reforms in critical areas, including raising and enforcing labor standards in Kenya's informal economy and safeguarding the environment from degradation. Moreover, an FTA with a strong dispute settlement chapter will allow the United States to get what it bargained for in any agreement reached, ensuring that the Kenyan government will comply with its commitments for years to come. An enforceable and comprehensive trade

agreement with Kenya will help to create a standard for engagement with African nations moving forward.

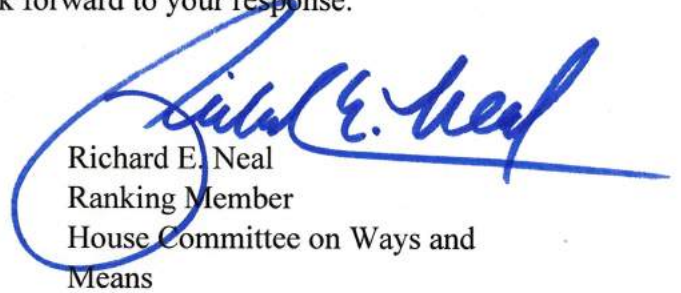
Trade agreements, when done right, can be a powerful driver for good-paying, quality jobs that open new markets and create more customers for American small businesses, manufacturers, farmers, and service providers, while raising the bar on human rights, labor standards, and environmental protections around the world and leveling the playing field for American workers.

We support the goals of the Biden-Harris Administration's negotiations with Kenya, and we are eager to partner with you to transition these talks to a more robust and durable agreement. Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your response.



Ron Wyden
Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance

Sincerely,



Richard E. Neal
Ranking Member
House Committee on Ways and
Means