

July 24, 2018

Members of the Wisconsin Congressional Delegation,

This letter is to express our bipartisan concerns regarding the developing international tariff dispute with our trading partners and its potential negative impact on Wisconsin farmers, companies and employees. While we are supportive of efforts to rectify trade imbalances to ensure American companies are not disadvantaged in the domestic and world marketplace, the current approach may have a counterproductive impact on the state of Wisconsin if a renegotiated NAFTA is not renewed and with retaliatory tariffs being imposed by our trading partners, particularly Canada, Mexico and China.

As members of the Wisconsin Legislature, we call on you to take actions to protect our state's trade-based industries and employees by ensuring reciprocal tariff increases from foreign countries are mitigated and minimized. It is our shared belief that an approach that puts America first can be achieved without sacrificing critical Wisconsin industries and jobs in the process.

We respectfully request a more targeted approach to these international trade issues so we can continue to achieve a robust and profitable trade environment for Wisconsin employers. In the past few weeks, many of you, both Republican and Democrat, have spoken out with concerns about the uncertainty caused by retaliatory tariff policies by our trading partners. However, now is the time for action and we ask Congress to channel the shared alarm about these recent developments into a legislative solution.

It is clear that these issues are not partisan. For this reason, we respectfully ask that Wisconsin's federal elected representatives on both sides of the aisle work toward a remedy to this situation before businesses in our communities suffer losses or entire industries are permanently damaged.

As you know, the state of Wisconsin is heavily dependent on international trade. For this reason, we respectfully request you provide particular attention to this bipartisan request from members of our state legislature as you explore options to protect and promote our state's farmers and firms impacted by your trade policy decisions.

Finally, we also offer our support and our partnership in finding solutions for the people of our state.

Sincerely,

DAVID STEFFEN
Chair, International Affairs
And Commerce Committee

PETER W. BARCA
Vice Chair, International Affairs
And Commerce Committee

[Additional names to be added upon circulation]

To:

U.S. Senator Ron Johnson

U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin

U.S. Representative Paul Ryan

U.S. Representative Mark Pocan

U.S. Representative Ron Kind

U.S. Representative Gwen Moore

U.S. Representative Jim Sensenbrenner

U.S. Representative Sean Duffy

U.S. Representative Mike Gallagher