



September 9, 2019

To The Members Of The United States Congress:

On behalf of the undersigned associations representing leading U.S. firms in digital, data analytics, software, semiconductors, cloud computing, telecom services, hardware, content, app development, and many other sectors vital to America's economy, we are writing to urge congressional support of the new NAFTA, the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). USMCA is critical to our economic future and congressional approval will promote America's global digital leadership.

The United States is the global internet, technology, and digital content leader. Small businesses in every congressional district use the internet to sell and export across the globe. Internet-connected small businesses are three times as likely to export and create jobs, grow four times more quickly, and earn twice as much revenue per employee.

Their success is thanks to America's digital policy framework, and USMCA will modernize North American trade rules to better reflect that framework. When NAFTA was negotiated a quarter-century ago, there was no e-commerce and, consequently, the agreement did not address digital policies. USMCA's Digital Trade Chapter – along with provisions in the Intellectual Property, Financial Services, Customs Administration and Trade Facilitation, and other chapters – set a new, global standard for rules that will benefit digital trade and e-commerce.

However, in order to gain these benefits, it will also be important to ensure that the Administration does not receive the authority to unilaterally amend the U.S. de minimis threshold through the USMCA implementing bill. The current threshold was set by Congress and continues to benefit U.S. small businesses.

Passing the USMCA would be a significant step not only towards guaranteeing the leadership of North America in the global digital economy, but also towards establishing a worldwide framework to address the challenges confronting global access and usage of digital trade.

We urge Congress to approve USMCA as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

ACT | The App Association
BSA: The Software Alliance
Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA)
Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA)
Consumer Technology Association (CTA)
i2Coalition
Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
Internet Association (IA)
Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA)
Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA)
TechNet