



LARRY HOGAN
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

July 8, 2019

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Christopher Van Hollen
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Andy Harris, M.D.
2334 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
1705 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
2206 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable David Trone
1213 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Sarbanes
2370 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Anthony Brown
1323 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
412 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Members of the Maryland Congressional Delegation:

I write today to express my support for the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) and urge you to work on a bipartisan basis to approve the deal this year. This fair, flexible, and modernized trade agreement allows Maryland to strengthen our partnerships with Canada and Mexico and promote economic growth while ensuring a rules-based trade environment that will help American workers thrive.

Free trade and strong relationships with neighboring allies are directly linked to our state's economic prosperity and ability to flourish in the 21st century. The USMCA will support Maryland's economy by opening up new markets and boosting export sales for our businesses of all sizes. Canada and Mexico are important trade partners for the state, supporting over 300,000 local jobs. Exports to these two valued partners represent more than 20% of all Maryland goods being exported globally, with Canada as the number one and Mexico as the number eight export markets for our state. Under the USMCA, Canada and Mexico will raise their *de minimis* shipment value levels, allowing minimal formal entry procedures for lower-value shipments and making it easier for more businesses, especially small- and medium-sized ones,

to participate in cross-border trade. Furthermore, the agreement will be particularly beneficial to our farmers by eliminating certain barriers that prevent them from selling poultry, eggs, and dairy products to Canadian markets.

By creating jobs, strengthening economic ties, and establishing a more level playing field for American workers and businesses, strategic trade agreements like the USMCA are essential to ensuring future prosperity for our nation and for the State of Maryland. Now that Mexico has voted to ratify the agreement, it is time for the U.S. Congress to act. I stand ready to work with you to ensure the USMCA is ratified this year.

Sincerely,



Larry Hogan
Governor