

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 27, 2018

Ambassador Robert E. Lighthizer  
United States Trade Representative  
Executive Office of the President  
600 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

As strong supporters of our bilateral relationship between the United States and the Republic of Georgia we write to urge you to strongly consider initiating bilateral trade agreement negotiations with Georgia. As you are aware, Georgia is an important ally and strategic partner for the United States. Georgia has made remarkable progress over the past two decades in enacting political and economic reform and has played a key role in promoting stability in the Caucasus region and supporting U.S. security interests around the world.

Georgia has consistently proven itself to be a committed and loyal ally and partner to the United States through its long-term contribution to military campaigns in Iraq and Afghanistan, particularly in light of the fact that 20 percent of its territories are occupied by the Russian Federation. A bilateral trade agreement would serve to further cement the deep ties between our two nations.

The United States and Georgia have already established a High-level Trade Dialogue, which could be used to launch negotiations and facilitate improved trade and investment relationships between American and Georgian companies, workers, and consumers.

Georgia's critical location between Iran, Turkey, and Russia makes it an attractive partner for a mutually beneficial trade agreement. Georgia is a gateway to eight landlocked Central Asian countries, with a combined market size of 120 million people and a combined economy of 300 billion USD. It also serves as an alternative energy supply route from Asia to Europe. Increased trade with Georgia may also provide unique opportunities for the U.S. to increase its economic presence and influence in the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

Additionally, Georgia has recently implemented several important economic reforms, particularly with respect to its tax and regulatory regimes, that make it an increasingly investment-friendly environment. Georgia has vigorously sought integration into European and Trans-Atlantic institutions, particularly the European Union and NATO. Recently, Georgia entered into the Association Agreement with the EU, further deepening Georgia's European ties. This agreement led to the launch of a new Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area (DCFTA) between the European Union and Georgia.

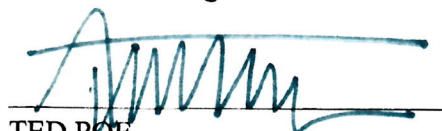
In addition to the potential economic benefits of a trade agreement to American workers and businesses, deeper economic integration between our two economies would further enhance U.S. interests of continued peace, stability, and economic development of the region. Lower barriers to trade would create more opportunities for American companies to invest in Georgia and contribute to the security of the region.

At a time of negative regional economic pressures caused by an increase in Russian aggression through disruptive economic and trade practices, a trade deal between the United States and Georgia has never been more important. This is especially true given the important role Georgia plays in facilitating the transit of energy resources from to Europe.

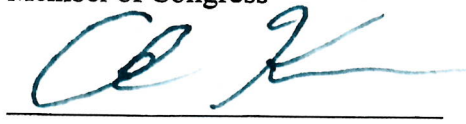
Given the economic and geostrategic importance of the American-Georgian relationship, we once again strongly encourage you to launch negotiations of a bilateral trade agreement.

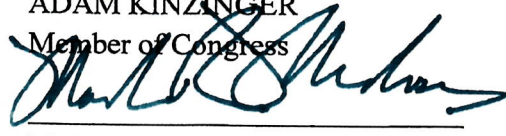
Very truly yours,

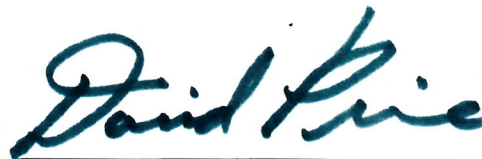
  
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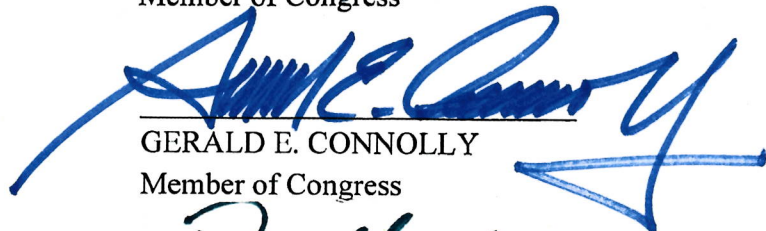
  
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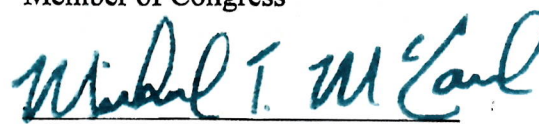
  
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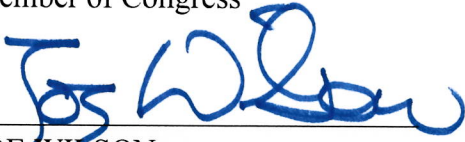
  
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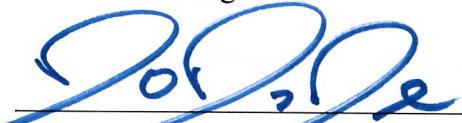
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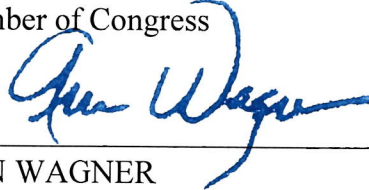
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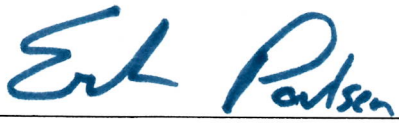
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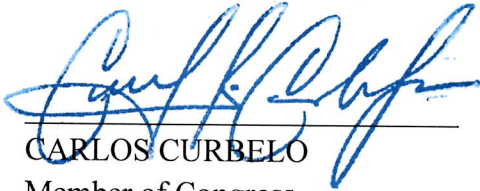
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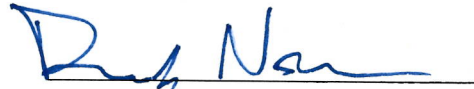
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