



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20515

BILL PASCRELL, JR.
NINTH DISTRICT
NEW JERSEY

November 7, 2018

The Honorable

Washington, DC 20515

Dear

I have been proud to be the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Trade during the 115th Congress. Today I ask for your support to continue that leadership as Chairman.

I have the experience and leadership skills necessary to lead the Trade Subcommittee in the 116th Congress. I have sought your input and priorities in shaping our messaging and strategy on trade. With your support, I will build upon the excellent work we have done together.

Our party saw significant gains on Election Day. It was our work on the House Ways and Means Committee, under the stout leadership of Richie Neal, which exposed the tax scam and health care repeal. Through that work, we sent a clear message that Democrats have better ideas when it comes to championing the middle class.

Over the past two years, we have worked together to operate the subcommittee in a transparent and collaborative manner. I would continue this approach as Chairman. For the committee to be successful, information should be shared and all voices must be heard. Each of us has smart ideas on how to strengthen our nation's trade agenda. I have prioritized balancing and integrating these perspectives in our actions.

I was closely involved throughout NAFTA renegotiations, organizing our caucus to insist that any agreement improves labor standards and wages in Mexico to reduce outsourcing of U.S. jobs. I personally took our fight to both Montreal and Mexico City. I have a strong working relationship with the U.S. Trade Representative and have continually pushed him to modernize the trade deal in areas like digital trade, and encouraged more market access for agricultural exports, especially dairy and wine.

We all represent industries and small businesses being negatively impacted by the tariffs on imports from China, tariffs on steel and aluminum, and subsequent retaliatory tariffs. I believe in strong trade enforcement but have long said that tariffs should only be implemented as a tool to achieve a clear end, not as a destructive or counterproductive weapon used haphazardly against friends and foes alike.

The Republicans have refused to hold a single hearing with Administration witnesses on NAFTA or tariffs, despite our repeated requests. Without hesitation, I would hold regular meetings and public hearings with members of this Administration to impose transparency and assert Congress's constitutional role in setting trade policy.

During my time as Ranking Member, I have offered legislation to create greater enforcement mechanisms and increase domestic job creation. To shed light on the Administration's tariffs strategy, our Resolution of Inquiry forced the committee's first public debate and vote on this issue. I would continue to demand answers as Chairman.

This remains one of the critical periods for U.S. trade in a generation. The Administration has indicated its intention to begin trade negotiations with the European Union, United Kingdom, and Japan. And we will continue to face the challenges posed by China and Trump's tariffs. I stand ready to fight on all these fronts for higher standards, global engagement, transparency and accountability.

Our committee has a tradition of terrific leadership. I have been privileged to work with and learn from Charlie Rangel, Sandy Levin, and Richie Neal. The committee needs a strong, knowledgeable hand to steer its agenda. Throughout my time in Congress I have passionately (some might say too passionately!) stood against trade policies harmful to working Americans and I am eager to be that hand.

In the months ahead, we will have the opportunity to make the contrast between Democrats and Republicans even more clear. Now, more than ever, this country requires a unified and assertive voice on trade that allows Congress to lead and holds the Administration to account. I intend to continue fighting for fair and reciprocal trade policies that give a fair shake to working families and small businesses while ensuring that we remain engaged with our global allies.

I look forward to working with you. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill", written in dark ink.

BILL PASCRELL, JR.
Member of Congress