

Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. Capitol
Washington, District of Columbia 20515

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dear Madam Speaker,

On behalf of our union's 300,000 members and their families, I am writing to express my union's strong opposition to two provisions we understand are currently part of the US-Mexico-Canada-Trade Agreement (USMCA): the Big Pharma provisions which will lock in monopolies and increase drug prices and the cynical inclusion of Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act (CDA 230) both of which have absolutely no place in a trade agreement.

As you know, many in the labor movement have been wary of the USMCA but we have been most appreciative of your negotiations to improve its chance of passage by making it an agreement that works for American workers. We share the hope of a bill that merits passage that protects American workers, enhances American competitiveness, and lifts up the lives of the vast majority of Americans who are struggling with an unequal economy and oppressive healthcare costs. However, if either the Big Pharma or CDA 230 provisions are included in an agreement that Congress is asked to vote on, our union will strongly oppose its passage.

UNITE HERE has been a champion of civil rights, worker rights, and access to affordable healthcare. In direct contrast to the values our union holds dear, the short-term rental company Airbnb has asserted that CDA 230 immunizes it from claims that some of its hosts discriminate on the basis of race when rejecting prospective guests.¹ The effort to export CDA immunity is wrong-headed and must be removed from the USMCA text. Similarly, inclusion of monopoly rights for Big Pharma is an end run around proper legislation that should be about reining in monopolies and prices, not locking them in for years.

We greatly appreciate your leadership and the needs of your caucus members, but we are also on the front lines fighting for the same hardworking men and women who are the backbone of our economy who cannot be expected to support a trade agreement that does not work for them.

Sincerely,



D. Taylor
President
UNITE HERE

Cc: Congressman Jan Schakowsky
Congressman Mark Pocan
Richard L. Trumka, President AFL-CIO

¹ <http://money.com/money/4144426/airbnb-racism-racist-harvard/>