

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 5, 2013

The Honorable Michael Froman
United States Trade Representative
The Office of the United States Trade Representative
6007 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Froman:

As you take the helm of an agency critical to furthering U.S. economic interests in the global information economy, we call upon you to advance the priorities of the Internet economy in all current and future trade agreements and negotiations.

The Internet economy has grown into a substantial driver of U.S. economic growth – accounting for more than 20 percent of GDP growth in the United States and other developed economies and more than 5 million U.S. jobs. As a platform to facilitate global commerce, the Internet's impact exceeds that of many established traditional economic sectors such as energy and agriculture. Nearly every modern U.S. business today relies on the flow of information within and across borders. Indeed, small businesses that make use of the Internet export twice as much as their non-tech savvy counterparts, and reflect sizeable productivity gains.

Given the Internet's ability to advance economic growth and strengthen the entire global trading system, we ask that you prioritize the needs of the Internet economy during your tenure as the President's principal trade advisor, negotiator, and spokesperson.

A trade environment conducive to entrepreneurship and e-commerce would set a strong baseline for information to flow unrestricted across borders, eliminate localization and other digital protectionist barriers, establish liability protections for the platforms on which Internet users communicate, and provide a balanced intellectual property framework that enables new technologies and transformative ways to deliver content.

In particular, the intellectual property provisions in trade agreements must reflect the interests of *all* parties in the Internet ecosystem, including content providers, Internet cloud providers, online marketplaces, social networks, access providers, discussion forums, search engines, creative artists and Internet users. It is important that our trade agreements include strong protections for copyright, but it is equally important that our agreements reflect the other parts of U.S. law that have enabled the Internet to become an unprecedented engine for economic growth, creativity and expression.

In the coming months, the Congress will likely consider legislation to give the President special authority to negotiate trade agreements. Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) can play an important role in positioning the United States for success internationally and promoting job creation at home. But to succeed in that task, TPA also must reflect the full range of current U.S. economic interests. We are hopeful that any TPA bill will set

forth modern trade negotiating objectives that reflect the Internet's broad impact on job growth and the U.S. economy and not merely repeat objectives from past bills.

As you lead in negotiating trade agreements, and as the Congress begins deliberations on TPA, it is worth recalling that a wide range of stakeholders will closely follow the approach to Internet-related issues. The 15 million Internet users who contacted the Congress regarding the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) is a useful reminder to approach intellectual property in a balanced manner that reflects all stakeholders' interests. We urge you to intensify efforts to increase transparency and provide a meaningful two-way dialogue with the Congress and the public on all trade policy matters, particularly those implicating the Internet economy.

Sincerely,



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



Darrell Issa
Member of Congress



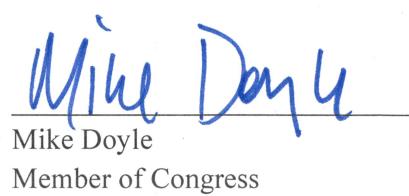
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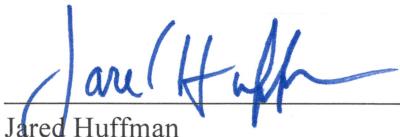
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