



February 15, 2019

Madam Speaker Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Madam Speaker:

We read with interest your comments concerning trade, the role of Congress in setting trade policy, and which authorities can or should be delegated by the legislative branch to the president.

Specifically, in an apparent reference to the Reciprocal Trade Act (H.R. 764), you said you don't support giving the president greater authority to impose tariffs. We also oppose this legislation, which would wrongly expand a president's ability to unilaterally implement tariffs. Granting presidents authority to negotiate free trade agreements has helped lower barriers to trade and improve the lives of millions of Americans. But Congress has ceded to the executive branch too much unilateral authority to impose tariffs. Tariffs are destructive taxes on American consumers and producers. They deserve an up-or-down vote in Congress before they take effect.

You also said you "support reclaiming some of Congress' [power] — it is Congress' prerogative." To that end, we've endorsed the Bicameral Congressional Trade Authority Act (H.R. 940 / S. 287) and are encouraged by the display of strong, bipartisan support for the measure expressed upon its introduction. We also support the Global Trade Accountability Act (H.R. 723). We encourage you to review and support this important legislation.

Last year's criminal justice reform legislation, the First Step Act, demonstrates it is possible for people to come together and find common ground to improve the lives of the American people. In that spirit, we hope to work with your office to advance legislation to require congressional approval of any proposed tariffs.

We welcome the opportunity to meet with your staff at their convenience. To arrange a meeting or for more information, please contact Brent Gardner (BGardner@afphq.org) or Mike Dingell (MDingell@afphq.org).

Sincerely,

Brent Gardner
Chief Government Affairs Officer
Americans for Prosperity

Nathan Nascimento
Executive Vice President
Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce