

Witness Testimony

The Honorable Kevin Brady
66th Chairman, House Ways & Means Committee

United States Senate Committee on Finance
February 12, 2026

Chairman Crapo, Ranking Member Wyden, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today. I am honored to testify in strong support of the United States–Mexico–Canada Agreement (USMCA).

I am a senior consultant at Akin and co-chair of the Coalition for North American Trade (CNAT), a broad alliance of North American companies and trade associations dedicated to strengthening, preserving and extending the USMCA to benefit workers, businesses and consumers across North America. The views expressed today are my own.

From 2018 to 2020, I had the honor of helping lead House Members in working with then-Chairman Grassley, Ranking Member Wyden, Chairman Neal, President Trump, Ambassador Lighthizer, and now-Ambassador Greer to develop and secure historic bipartisan support for the USMCA.

The USMCA negotiated by President Trump is the gold standard for U.S. trade agreements and a signature achievement of his first term. The agreement was viewed correctly as such a major win for U.S. workers, manufacturers, farmers and service businesses that it secured the unprecedented bipartisan support of 385 lawmakers in the House and 89 in the Senate.

Due to its smart design of zero tariffs and low trade barriers on crucial products bought and sold by American businesses and consumers, its exemption from other tariff levies and integrated supply chains that share critical minerals and resources across the three nations, the United States today is economically stronger, more secure, and strategically positioned to win against aggressive foreign adversaries in the future, like China.

As a result of President Trump’s USMCA, Canada and Mexico together are now America’s top customers, investors and suppliers – all in one. Let me highlight this: Our two neighbors together are America’s top customer, our top investor and our most important suppliers. This is an unprecedented commitment to America’s success that no other country can claim.

As customers, together they buy five times more Made-In-America products and services than any other country in the world. Nearly one-third of all US. exports are sold to Canada and Mexico, with 49 of America’s 50 states counting them among their top three customers. Nearly 13 million U.S. jobs in manufacturing, technology, energy, agriculture and services depend on trade with our two neighbors.

Due to USMCA, Mexico and Canada together are now also the largest investors in America. Since President Trump's new agreement took effect in 2020, annual investment by our two neighbors surged 42 percent to \$873 billion last year when measured by the original owner of foreign investment. Investment by Mexico and Canada in U.S.-based manufacturing has grown nearly 20 percent to a record \$97 billion per year. Investment in U.S. technology production has more than doubled.

President Trump is on a mission to attract foreign investment and the jobs it brings to Americans. Mexico and Canada together are already delivering for the U.S.

And because of the USMCA, Canada and Mexico are also America's most important suppliers, delivering on President Trump's charge to strengthen supply chains for America's national and economy security. Together they lead the world in helping the U.S. establish a reliable and resilient industrial base that runs on nearby, trusted materials.

The USMCA is credited with supporting President Trump's initiatives to localize and strengthen supply chains, ensuring reliable access to critical minerals, energy resources, and manufacturing inputs. The agreement is a vital strategic tool to compete globally, especially in advanced sectors like AI, semiconductors, and manufacturing.

As a result, USMCA provides important national and economic security to the U.S. The agreement reflects a trade and investment alliance with Canada and Mexico that strengthens the United States' ability to compete in an era of intensifying global rivalry.

By incentivizing production, sourcing, and investment within North America, the USMCA reduces reliance on China-centric and other state-driven supply chains, limits exposure to hostile or unreliable actors, and positions the United States to meet long-term strategic challenges with greater confidence and control.

Looking to the future, the most powerful economic argument for strengthening, preserving and extending the USMCA is that this unique, proven integrated partnership ensures America can compete and win against the most aggressive foreign competitors in the world.

The success of the USMCA cannot be fully appreciated without recognizing Congress's leadership. In addition to adhering to new congressional rules requiring unprecedented transparency with the public, the agreement was shaped through a collaborative process involving Congress - where it was debated, improved, and approved on a strong bipartisan basis with input from Members representing communities across the country.

That bipartisan foundation is bolstered by overwhelming public support, with three-quarters of Americans today viewing the USMCA as good for the U.S. economy and for their standard of living - a significant improvement over public opinion of the original North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).¹

¹ [Most Americans Say USCMA Is Good for the US Economy](#)

The USMCA is a world-class example of trade done right, clearly benefiting America. But no trade relationship of this magnitude is perfect. The USMCA Review process offers an important opportunity for the United States, Canada, and Mexico to build upon this strong and enduring relationship.

The six-year Review and the 16-year sunset provision is a USMCA innovation - and was controversial during negotiations. But as Ambassador Lighthizer assured us in Congress at the time, it is designed as a thoughtful, periodic assessment of the agreement and a critical tool to ensure increased oversight and input from Congress to the Executive branch.

From the standpoint of Congress, which holds the ultimate Constitutional authority over trade and foreign commerce, the Review is an opportunity to work with our Administration to ensure all parties are in compliance with their commitments, to update it to meet the economic challenges of the future, and to make sure it is working to the benefit of workers, manufacturers, farmers and consumers in America. Accordingly, a long-term extension of the USMCA is essential to give businesses and workers the certainty they need to plan, invest, and compete, while protecting American economic and national security interests over the long term.

In my view, the USMCA is the most consequential trade agreement in the world. It is a proven success that supports economic growth and job creation in every corner of America, with real impacts felt in local communities, small businesses, and workplaces nationwide. Its importance will only grow as global economic competition intensifies, especially from China.

To remain the world's leading economic power and to win the innovation race, the United States must strengthen, preserve and extend the trusted North American partnership that underpins our competitiveness and long-term strength.

Thank you for holding this important hearing. I look forward to your questions.

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