

2163 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2605  
DISTRICT OFFICES:  
2930 WETMORE AVENUE, SUITE 9F  
EVERETT, WA 98201  
(425) 252-3188  
119 N. COMMERCIAL STREET, SUITE 275  
BELLINGHAM, WA 98225  
(360) 733-4500  
E-Mail: Rick.Larsen@mail.house.gov  
http://larsen.house.gov

RICK LARSEN  
2ND DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4702

RANKING MEMBER  
COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

July 1, 2026

The Honorable Jamieson Greer  
Ambassador  
Office of the United States Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Greer:

I write regarding the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) and the office of the United States Trade Representative's (USTR) ongoing joint review process. Over the past year, my office has spoken to and met with over a hundred farmers, workers, manufacturers, businesses, municipalities, ports and other stakeholders across Washington's Second Congressional District (WA-02). In these conversations, my staff and I have heard how USMCA helps families and communities thrive – driving down prices, creating jobs, increasing wages and strengthening U.S. competitiveness and national security.

Recognizing that there are differing perspectives and voices on USMCA and trade policies among the constituents I represent, it is clear that businesses and communities across WA-02 broadly support and benefit from USMCA. **The United States should continue and enhance USMCA, and fully enforce the provisions of the agreement to help lower prices and create more good-paying jobs.**

WA-02 stakeholders' top priorities to enhance USMCA include:

- Provide predictability and reduce uncertainty when it comes to tariff rates, regulations and trade policy;
- Sustain and facilitate integrated, tariff-free cross-border supply chains, particularly with Canada; and
- Ensure WA-02 farmers, producers and businesses can compete in the United States and worldwide on a level playing field, addressing both tariffs and non-tariff measures.

Additional priorities for WA-02 stakeholders include, but are not limited to:

- Ensure smooth, predictable customs procedures and reduce costs and delays at borders, particularly for businesses in rural border communities and pene-exclaves including Point Roberts, WA<sup>1</sup>; and

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<sup>1</sup> Pene-exclaves are parts of the territory of one country that can be approached conveniently—in particular by wheeled traffic—only through the territory of another country.

- Modernize USMCA Professional (TN) Nonimmigrant visa categories to reflect emerging industries and evolving needs of U.S. businesses and communities.

Other concerns important to address as part of the USMCA review, or in tandem with this process, include:

- Manage adverse impacts of Section 232 tariffs;
- Address the impacts of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI); and
- Recommit to trade policies beyond tariffs.

The below contents of this letter reflect priorities and feedback on the USMCA review that WA-02 stakeholders have shared with me and my office, but the letter should not serve as an endorsement of each of these positions. I request your full and fair consideration of these priorities in the USMCA review and in USTR’s consultations with Canada and Mexico.

## **IMPORTANCE OF USMCA TO WA-02**

WA-02 – comprising part of Snohomish County and all of Island, Skagit, Whatcom and San Juan counties – is one of the most trade-connected and trade-dependent U.S. congressional districts. An estimated 40 percent of jobs in Washington state are tied to trade<sup>2</sup>, and this number is even higher for some WA-02 communities.<sup>3</sup> WA-02 includes a world-leading aerospace manufacturing and engineering cluster and diverse advanced manufacturers in maritime, energy, defense and space. The district is also a center for U.S. specialty crop agriculture: Whatcom County is the source of nearly 90 percent of U.S. frozen red raspberries<sup>4</sup>, while Skagit County produces approximately 25 percent of the global table beet seed and cabbage seed supply, and 8 percent of global spinach seed supply.<sup>5</sup> The district is home to the majority of Washington’s oil refining capacity, which is the fifth-largest among U.S. states.<sup>6</sup>

WA-02 also shares land and sea borders with Canada. Canada is an integral customer, supplier and workforce and investment partner. WA-02 exported approximately \$1 billion in goods to Canada in 2025 – led by aerospace and petroleum products – and \$284 million in services to Canada in 2024, led by transportation and travel services.<sup>7</sup> The aerospace, energy and agriculture supply chains between WA-02 and Canada are deeply integrated and flow back and forth across the border. Most of the natural gas consumed in Washington state comes from Canada.<sup>8</sup> WA-02

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<sup>2</sup> Washington Council on International Trade, “How the Proposed Trump Administration Tariffs Likely Will Impact Washington State’s Economy.” January 2025. <https://wcit.org/how-trump-tariffs-impact-washington-state/>

<sup>3</sup> For example, in Snohomish County, WA an estimated 60 percent of jobs are tied to trade. See [https://www.portofeverett.com/your\\_port/economic\\_value.php](https://www.portofeverett.com/your_port/economic_value.php)

<sup>4</sup> Washington Red Raspberry Commission. “About Us.” <https://redrazz.org/about-us/>

<sup>5</sup> Washington State University Skagit County Extension. “Skagit County Agricultural Statistics 2024.” <https://extension.wsu.edu/skagit/skagit-county-agriculture-statistics-2024/>

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Energy Information Administration. “Washington.” <https://www.eia.gov/states/wa/analysis..>

<sup>7</sup> Government of Canada. “Interactive Canadian Trade Data with U.S. Districts: Washington’s Second Congressional District and Canada.” April 2026. <https://canada-in-usa.com/state/washington/>

<sup>8</sup> U.S. Energy Information Administration. “Washington.” <https://www.eia.gov/states/wa/analysis>. Also see Northwest Gas Association. “NWGA Releases 2024 Pacific Northwest Natural Gas Market Outlook.” <https://www.nwga.org/post/nwga-releases-2024-pacific-northwest-natural-gas-market-outlook>

refineries report that a large amount of the crude oil they process is sourced from Canada, and they often export refined products back to Canada including as jet fuel.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) operates five land Ports of Entry in WA-02 between the U.S. and Canada. This includes the third-busiest border crossing between the two countries at Blaine, WA for passenger vehicles and trains and fourth-busiest for trucks,<sup>9</sup> in addition to multiple seaport and airport connections. Canadian-owned businesses employ more than 2,100 workers in WA-02, with exports to Canada supporting an estimated additional 5,700 jobs in the district.<sup>10</sup>

## **TOP USMCA PRIORITIES FOR WA-02 STAKEHOLDERS**

### **1. Provide predictability and reduce uncertainty when it comes to tariff rates, regulations and trade policy.**

USMCA provides businesses with certainty and predictability. Customers and businesses are hurt by the uncertainty of whether USMCA will be renewed, and of U.S. tariff policies more broadly. This was the top priority identified by WA-02 stakeholders across multiple industries and sectors.

- Some WA-02 manufacturers report that their investors are unsettled about making future U.S. expansions in WA-02 due to current uncertainty around USMCA and U.S. tariff policies. For example, some manufacturers diverted project work to Canada because U.S. tariffs increased input costs, which then made the finished products less cost competitive.
- In construction, builders have cited the significant cost increases resulting from tariffs on steel and aluminum products—which until June 2026 did not include any exemptions for goods traded under USMCA—as factors slowing investments in new manufacturing facility construction. Local government public works agencies are seeking federal grant funding and additional resources to cover higher construction costs resulting from these and other tariffs.
- WA-02 stakeholders expressed concern about a continuing cycle of annual reviews of USMCA, which would cause prolonged uncertainty detrimental to businesses. They did not indicate any interest in separating the trilateral USMCA into bilateral U.S.-Canada and U.S.-Mexico agreements.

### **2. Sustain and facilitate integrated, tariff-free cross-border supply chains, particularly with Canada.**

A tariff-free integrated supply chain through USMCA is a priority across multiple sectors:

***Agriculture:*** A broad range of WA-02 farmers and agricultural producers – from berry and tree fruit growers to seafood and value-added producers – benefit from the integrated supply chains that USMCA facilitates.

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<sup>9</sup> U.S. Department of Transportation Bureau of Transportation Statistics. “Border Crossing Data Annual Release: 2025.” <https://www.bts.gov/newsroom/border-crossing-data-annual-release-2025>

<sup>10</sup> Government of Canada. “Interactive Canadian Trade Data with U.S. Districts: Washington’s Second Congressional District and Canada.” April 2026. <https://canada-in-usa.com/state/washington/>

- Growers of berries, apples, pears and cherries have expressed support for the current trade terms with Canada under USMCA, particularly in the frozen and processed product sectors.
- Growers and producers ship product to Canada for freezing, storage and processing, with many of those products returning to the U.S. market and vice versa. Tariff-free movement ensures supply chain efficiency and stability.
- Tariffs, including tariff increases on goods not covered by USMCA or goods compliant with USMCA rules, increase costs for growers and producers, complicating business and raising prices for families at the grocery store.

***Manufacturing:*** WA-02 manufacturers report that USMCA and the supply chains it facilitates lowers costs and bolsters their ability to export, enabling the manufacturers to better compete against primary global competitors in China.

***Aerospace:*** Maintaining the zero-tariff environment for Federal Aviation Administration-certified products under the Agreement on Trade in Civil Aircraft, in addition to stable and integrated North American supply chains, is critical for the WA-02 and U.S. aviation sector.

***Energy:*** Utilities and oil refineries in WA-02 raised the importance of tariff-free flows of oil, gas and equipment needed for energy infrastructure for Pacific Northwest and ultimately U.S. national and economic security. Tariff exemption of renewable fuel feedstocks, including sustainable aviation fuels (SAF), under USMCA will support an important new growth sector for energy sector businesses and university research and development in WA-02.

***Transportation:*** Transit agencies in WA-02 report that stable USMCA rules reduce delays in procurement. These agencies reported that predictable cross-border movement helps keep bus deliveries within the normal 14- to 24-month window, but disruptions can prolong the time required for repairs and reduce fleet availability. They also reported that increased tariffs on steel and aluminum can add thousands of dollars to price of buses, while tariffs on imported electronic components including for electric bus charging and shop infrastructure increases costs.

### **3. Ensure WA-02 farmers, producers and businesses can compete in the United States and worldwide on a level playing field, addressing both tariffs and non-tariff measures.**

***Enforce dispute resolution mechanisms:*** WA-02 farmers and producers welcome fair and strengthened enforcement of USMCA provisions and dispute resolution mechanisms to ensure they will compete on a level playing field with Canadian and Mexican producers. One example is safeguard measures supporting specialty crop growers from unfair pressures, particularly from Mexican competitors.

***Rules of origin:*** Several WA-02 stakeholders called for improvements to rules of origin provisions in USMCA.

- For WA-02 oil refineries, this includes preserving USMCA’s existing rule allowing heavy Canadian crude blended with up to 40 percent diluent to qualify as originating, because diluent is necessary to transport heavy crude through pipelines.

- Energy stakeholders also urged USTR and CBP to modernize origin-certification requirements by recognizing Canada’s mandated volumetric tracking systems as valid evidence of origin, reducing duplicative paperwork while maintaining enforceability.
- For labor unions, priorities for reviewing the effectiveness of rules of origin include addressing concerns about circumvention of trade remedy laws, strengthening USMCA rules of origin in sectors beyond autos such as aerospace and other industries and ensuring Most Favored Nation (MFN) tariffs are not used to evade USMCA labor standards.

**Regulatory alignment:** WA-02 stakeholders welcome more regulatory alignment, including consistency in environmental standards between the U.S., Canada and Mexico to reduce complexity and promote product adoption across multiple jurisdictions.

- For example, transit agencies noted that alignment of Buy America rules and USMCA supports compliance with both, and that USMCA helps ensure that bus builds remain compliant with federal procurement rules.

**Harmonizing the Harbor Maintenance Tax:** Washington seaports and maritime labor request harmonization of Harbor Maintenance Tax (HMT) collections so that all goods bound for the United States through any border, whether land or sea, be assessed the same fees, in order to level the playing field with ports in Canada and Mexico. This request is consistent with Section 6(b) of Executive Order 14269 of April 9, 2025.<sup>11</sup>

- The HMT is collected at U.S. ports but is not assessed on U.S.-bound cargo that enters through a U.S. land border with Canada or Mexico. HMT was not harmonized with NAFTA, resulting in an incentive for shippers to divert cargo to Canadian and Mexican ports and move them across U.S. land borders to avoid paying the HMT.

**Labor Value Content standard:** Labor unions with membership in WA-02 would like to see USMCA’s Labor Value Content (LVC) rule expanded to include aircraft, ships, and other manufacturing sectors. The unions would also like to see increased enforcement of this rule.

**Rapid response mechanism:** WA-02 labor and civic groups called for strengthening of the Rapid Response Mechanism in USMCA, and additional funding supporting labor rights in Mexico.

**Tax withholding:** Refineries in WA-02 support the idea that eliminating withholding taxes on dividends within North America will further strengthen cross-border investments and USMCA benefits for all three markets.

**Environmental protections:** WA-02 civic groups called for stronger environmental standards under USMCA and stronger enforcement of these standards.

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<sup>11</sup> The White House. Executive Order 14269. “Restoring America’s Maritime Dominance.” April 9, 2025. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/04/restoring-americas-maritime-dominance/>

## **ADDITIONAL USMCA PRIORITIES FOR WA-02 STAKEHOLDERS**

### **1. Ensure smooth, predictable customs procedures and reduce costs and delays at borders, particularly for businesses in rural border communities and pene-exclaves including Point Roberts, WA.**

WA-02 manufacturing and logistics businesses and agriculture producers expressed frustration about increasingly burdensome and complex customs procedures, and lack of consistent guidance by customs officials at the borders, resulting from the Administration's tariff policies.

Small businesses in rural WA-02 border communities and Point Roberts, a pene-exclave whose only land access to the rest of the United States requires travel through Canada, are particularly impacted by lack of consistent customs guidance including when transporting goods from Canada into the U.S., especially as tariff rates have fluctuated. This lack of consistency creates uncertainty and increases costs that could otherwise support investments in their business and research and development.

These businesses and producers report that streamlining and simplifying customs procedures will reduce delays and costs. Small businesses suggested that CBP have customs liaisons to help businesses navigate through this process.

Stakeholders also highlighted that ensuring safe, secure and efficient cross-border flows of people and goods requires investing in technologies and infrastructure at U.S. ports of entry and ensuring that CBP and its border officers have the tools and resources they need.

### **2. Modernize USMCA Professional (TN) Nonimmigrant visa categories to reflect emerging industries and evolving needs of U.S. businesses and communities.**

WA-02 stakeholders report that USMCA Professional (TN) Nonimmigrant visas under USMCA help some WA-02 businesses, higher education institutions and health care facilities secure the best talent regionally for skilled professional roles that are often challenging to fill, including in nursing and aging services.

Some users of TN visas in WA-02 desire updates to professions eligible under this program, including to reflect new industries that did not exist when TN was first established as well as evolving workforce needs. For example, health care providers would like TN to include Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN), Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVN) and Nursing Assistants as allowable workers under TN categories, and to extend eligibility to highly skilled nursing professionals with associate degrees including LPNs and LVNs.

For Point Roberts and similarly situated border communities, I encourage USTR to coordinate with the Department of Homeland Security and other agencies to examine lawful, targeted workforce solutions that reflect the unique burdens faced by U.S. communities accessible by land only through Canada. I recently introduced the Ensuring Exclave Communities are Listened to And their Voices are Examined (EXCLAVE) Act of 2026 (H.R. 9435) to further ensure federal government agencies actively seek input from Point Roberts and other pene-exclave

communities on any proposed rules that may impose undue burdens on their residents, including their ability to conduct trade or business.

## **OTHER TRADE PRIORITIES FOR WA-02 STAKEHOLDERS**

The USMCA review cannot be disaggregated from other trade, economic and diplomatic initiatives that impact workers, businesses and communities in WA-02.<sup>12</sup>

### **1. Manage adverse impacts of Section 232 tariffs.**

Multiple stakeholders in WA-02—from manufacturers and construction companies to local governments, including businesses that source aluminum and steel exclusively from U.S. domestic producers—have raised the harm they are experiencing from Section 232 tariffs. The cost increases generated by these tariffs and their required customs procedures ripple through the supply chain and are passed along to home builders and buyers. These tariffs raise costs for construction of important transportation and infrastructure projects, delaying if not jeopardizing completion. WA-02 manufacturers described the process of validating countries of origin for these steel and aluminum products as expensive and time-consuming, diverting resources that could instead have gone to new investments or research and development.<sup>13</sup>

As noted in the May 18, 2026 [letter](#) you received from my Democratic colleagues on the House Ways and Means Committee, the USMCA review should discuss coordination on national security tariffs including those imposed under Section 232. Efforts should be made in the review to coordinate and align with Canada and Mexico to ensure that these and other tariffs imposed in the name of national security do not harm U.S. consumers by increasing housing and other costs, or erode the global competitiveness of U.S. advanced manufacturers.

### **2. Address the impacts of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence (AI).**

Labor unions with membership in WA-02 have called for promoting technology standards that ensure human oversight, transparency, and consultation with labor. These unions emphasize that the review process must ensure that USMCA is equipped to address the impacts of emerging technologies, including AI, that will significantly impact industry sectors and the U.S. workforce.

### **3. Recommit to trade policies beyond tariffs.**

WA-02 stakeholders suggested that USTR and other federal agencies, including the U.S. Small Business Administration, should also take concrete actions that support U.S. small businesses adversely impacted by the Administration's tariff policies and the significant supply chain and

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<sup>12</sup> For example, completion of the Columbia River Treaty negotiations between the U.S. and Canada is critical to the reliability of the hydropower energy system that powers the economy and livelihood of not only Washington state but also the entire U.S. Pacific Northwest.

<sup>13</sup> One manufacturer with operations in WA-02 would like Section 232 tariffs maintained on completed medium- and heavy-duty trucks, powered and unpowered chassis gliders, knock-down kits, and other equivalent combinations of parts.

cost challenges the reliance on tariffs has created. Potential solutions that WA-02 small businesses have shared include retail-specific support measures, low interest loans, tax credit deductions and resources to identify alternate supply chains.

## CONCLUSION

Continuing USMCA will send a strong signal reassuring people and businesses in WA-02 that they can continue to rely on this agreement for secure, reliable supply chains, tariff-free access and a level playing field across North America to grow jobs at home and compete globally.

Additionally, tariffs are a tool to be strategically used in implementing trade policies, but tariffs are not themselves a trade policy. The United States should not rely on broad, unpredictable, and unilateral tariffs that punish allies as a substitute for effective trade policies.

Instead, the United States should aggressively promote national trade interests in the USMCA review by recommitting to enforce labor rules and rules of origin, promoting customs compliance and market access commitments and resolving disputes timely and transparently. These actions are a more effective way the Administration can advance trade policies that actually create jobs and drive down prices for Americans.

As the USMCA review process moves forward, I respectfully urge you to:

- Provide predictability and reduce uncertainty when it comes to tariff rates, regulations and trade policy;
- Sustain and facilitate integrated, tariff-free cross-border supply chains, particularly with Canada; and
- Ensure WA-02 farmers, producers and businesses can compete in the United States and worldwide on a level playing field, addressing both tariffs and non-tariff measures.

Also, in my conversations with stakeholders, it is clear that the Administration's rhetoric towards Canada has caused real economic damage in WA-02, where cross-border family, cultural and people-to-people ties run deep. Cross-border travel by neighboring British Columbia residents into WA-02 during 2025 declined 36 percent year-on-year.<sup>14</sup> Small businesses across WA-02 that have long welcomed and relied on Canadian customers are bearing much of the burden. Several businesses estimate declines by 20 percent from 2024 to 2025 due to the loss of these customers.

Even the most advantageous trade agreement will not support U.S. jobs and economic growth if customers choose to take their business elsewhere. I urge USTR to work with the Administration to articulate a more constructive tone that will rebuild the trust and confidence essential to the U.S.-Canada relationship.

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<sup>14</sup> Whatcom Council of Governments. "2024-2026 Volume Comparisons." <https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/melissa.fanucci/viz/2024-2026VolumeComparisons/ADJMonthlyComparisons>

I look forward to working with you to ensure that the USMCA joint review process strengthens and builds on the opportunities this agreement offers and delivers for American farmers, workers, manufacturers, services providers and communities across the country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rick Larsen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rick Larsen  
U.S. Representative  
Washington State, Second District