



April 26, 2018

The Honorable Chrystia Freeland
Minister of Foreign Affairs
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0G2

Ambassador Robert Lighthizer
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

The Honorable Ildefonso Guajardo Villareal
Secretary of Economy
Paseo de la Reforma 296,
Col. Juárez, Del. Cuauhtémoc
Ciudad de México. C.P. 06600

Dear Minister Freeland, Ambassador Lighthizer, and Secretary Guajardo:

On World Intellectual Property (IP) Day, we write to express our support for a robust and high-standard intellectual property (IP) chapter in any modernized NAFTA agreement. As the United States, Canada, and Mexico continue the rapid pace of negotiations, it is imperative that the updated NAFTA include 21st century protections for creative and innovative industries across North America.

IP protections provide the legal certainty needed for innovators and creators to make high-risk, high-capital investment into the newest creative content, cutting-edge technologies, and next generation medicines. In the United States alone, IP-intensive industries support 45.5 million jobs, account for \$6.6 trillion in U.S. GDP, and sustain 52% of all U.S. exports.

The U.S. Chamber's International IP Index, which measures 50 countries against 40 IP indicators, shows North America as a whole at a considerable disadvantage to global leaders in Europe and Asia. Moreover, the Index provides evidence of a strong positive relationship between IP strength and achievement of socio-economic goals such as foreign direct investment, private sector R&D spending, and access to new technologies. NAFTA modernization is an opportunity to elevate the IP frameworks to a level commensurate with the world's leading economies – if it fails to put Canada and Mexico among the top 10 countries ranked on the Index it will be a missed opportunity.

Including 21st century IP protections creates a win-win-win scenario for all three countries by propelling North America to becoming the most innovative and creative trading bloc in the world. As the three negotiating countries strive to reach an agreement in principle on NAFTA, it is critical that any agreement include comprehensive, high-standard IP provisions that are backed by robust enforcement mechanisms.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to support the growth of innovative and creative industries across North America through the NAFTA modernization process.

Sincerely,

U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Canadian Intellectual Property Council
Asociación Mexicana de Industrias de Investigación Farmacéutica, A.C.