

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 24, 2015

The Honorable Michael Froman
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Froman:

As negotiations over the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) continue to progress towards a conclusion, we write regarding the importance of cross border data flows to the global economy. In recent years, the explosive growth of mobile devices and other connected devices, as well as the growth of cloud-based computing, has led to remarkable increases in cross-border Internet traffic with unprecedented quantities of data being exchanged on a daily basis. Driven by the internet economy, this growth knows no borders. Data is constantly sent between people and businesses in different countries, and stored on servers that could be anywhere in the world. The final TPP must protect this free flow of information.

However, countries in TPP are now considering “data localization” policies that would prohibit the flow of their citizens’ data outside their borders, or severely restrict the free flow of data between countries.

Restrictions on cross border data flow set a dangerous precedent, undermining decades of openness under which the Internet and Internet-enabled technologies have thrived. There is not a single industry that would be immune from the effects of data localization, and businesses would be severely harmed as they attempt to compete and conduct global operations. Localization would also quickly limit the potential for worldwide data to be aggregated and analyzed for potentially lifesaving applications, from medical research to farming, to airplane maintenance.

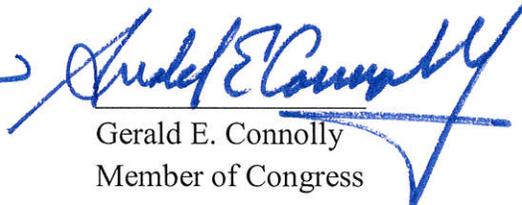
The TPP is a 21st century trade agreement and should reflect the realities of today’s 21st century economy. We urge you to take into account the critical importance of cross border data flows to the global economy, and ensure that the free flow of data across borders is secured in the final agreement.

We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that the TPP represents all aspects of a 21st century agreement. Thank you for your attention to this request.

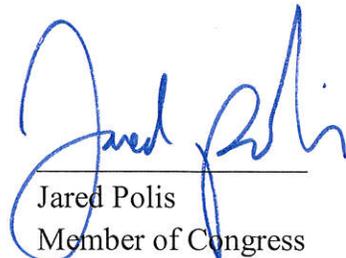
Sincerely,



Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Jared Polis
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



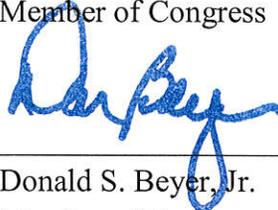
Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen
Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



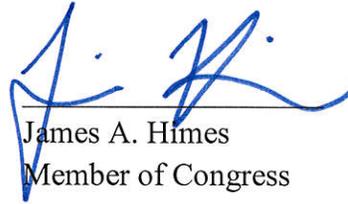
Donald S. Beyer, Jr.
Member of Congress



Derek Kilmer
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Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



James A. Himes
Member of Congress



Mike Quigley
Member of Congress