



August 15, 2017

The Honorable Robert E. Lighthizer  
U.S. Trade Representative  
Office of the United States Trade Representative  
600 17th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

In advance of the first round of re-negotiations of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) August 16-20, the Business Council for Sustainable Energy would like express as its main priority that the robust North American energy system that has evolved over the past twenty-five years is protected and not disrupted. We would also like to see a recognition of the advancements made in energy productivity over that same time period recognized in any calculus of a trade balance.

The Council is a coalition of companies and trade associations from the energy efficiency, natural gas and renewable energy sectors, and includes independent electric power producers, investor-owned utilities, public power utilities, project developers, commercial end users and service providers. Founded in 1992, the Council advocates for policies that expand the use of commercially-available clean energy technologies, products and services. These industries together support over 3 million jobs spread across every state and congressional district in the United States and are united around the revitalization of the economy and the creation of a secure and reliable energy future in America.<sup>1</sup>

As such, the Council commends the United States' emphasis on the value of energy security and independence in the negotiating objectives. The continued flow and improvement of clean energy and energy efficient goods and services across North American borders will enable continued growth of these sectors and strengthening of the American energy portfolio.

We would like to acknowledge the work of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Advisory Committee (RE&EEAC). Several of our members are part of the committee and we would like to highlight some points from their [submission](#) to the Secretary of Commerce:

- Maintain the tariff at zero for products produced in North America, as clean energy products benefit from this current system.
- Promote U.S. codes and standards for clean energy products and work towards harmonization as appropriate.
- Update the language around digital trade to reflect the growth of information technology (IT) and its impact on all sectors, including the energy sector and to afford the necessary consumer protections and provisions to protect IP in the digital economy.

We encourage you to utilize the 2017 edition of the [Sustainable Energy in America Factbook](#) for the latest market information on the progress of the energy efficiency, natural gas and renewable energy sectors in America over the past

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.energy.gov/downloads/2017-us-energy-and-employment-report>

decade. The Factbook is a free, fact-based resource that is published annually in February in partnership with Bloomberg New Energy Finance.

Further, the Council would like to offer its expertise and market-based knowledge of the U.S. energy economy to USTR's negotiating team as it works to achieve its energy objective to preserve market access and investment opportunities for American energy technology and service providers. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa Jacobson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lisa Jacobson  
President  
Business Council for Sustainable Energy