

May 9, 2017

The Honorable Rex Tillerson
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Thomas Price
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

The Honorable Sonny Perdue
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20250

Mr. Stephen Vaughn
Acting U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20508

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Tillerson, Secretary Perdue, Secretary Ross, Secretary Price, and Mr. Vaughn:

As representatives of leading U.S. business associations representing a broad swath of the manufacturing economy, our organizations recently joined together to launch Engaging America's Global Leadership (EAGL), a new coalition focused on fostering effective U.S. leadership to address the growing number of activities at global institutions such as the United Nations and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development that may impact U.S. manufacturing competitiveness and jobs. EAGL represents diverse industries such as food and agriculture, chemicals, plastics, footwear and apparel, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, and consumer products that are important contributors to the American economy, employing millions of American workers.

Our organizations and member companies support strong U.S. leadership in global institutions, as well as initiatives that support these organizations' core missions and promote a vibrant U.S. economy. We are concerned, however, by the growing wave of activities coming out of the United Nations and other multilateral venues that may impact the U.S. economy and U.S. jobs.

Many of these initiatives do not align with the core missions of these various institutions, have not been developed in a manner transparent to all stakeholders, and are not based on good regulatory practice or sound science. These activities and others, such as price controls, appear in a variety of forms, from conferences and reports to action plans and guiding regulations that are being manipulated to pressure national governments to adopt specific policies and recommendations that harm manufacturers in the United States and the high-paying jobs they create.

Furthermore, many of these policy proposals and recommendations are formulated in ways that exclude or marginalize U.S. government and private sector representatives, calling into question the impartiality and motivations of these initiatives. These initiatives directly threaten not only U.S. manufacturing success, but our leadership in these institutions. It is imperative that U.S.

interests be vigorously defended at all levels of the various global institutions that the United States supports and engages.

America's diplomats and government officials must stand up for U.S. manufacturing through smart engagement and leadership within these international organizations, hold them accountable, and drive progress and reform. Such leadership must ensure the U.S. government is speaking with one consistent voice across the spectrum of multilateral institutions, employing all available tools and leverage, and delivering real results.

Our organizations are committed to working with the entire administration and Congress to develop concrete strategies and solutions that not only address specific initiatives, but that also improve the ability of the U.S. government – and your agencies – to defend and promote American economic interests. We would appreciate an opportunity to engage you and your staff further on these concerns and how to address them. For more information or to set a follow-up discussion, please contact Ryan Ong (rong@nam.org).

Sincerely,

Advanced Medical Technology Association
Air Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute
American Apparel and Footwear Association
American Chemistry Council
Biotechnology Innovation Organization
CropLife America
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States
International Dairy Foods Association
National Association of Manufacturers
National Pork Producers Council
Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association
Plastics Industry Association
Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates
The Fertilizer Institute
The Vinyl Institute

Cc: The Honorable Nikki R. Haley, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations