

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 29, 2019

Richard J. Kramer
Chairman of the Board, Chief Executive Officer, and President
The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
200 Innovation Way
Akron, Ohio 44316

Dear Mr. Kramer:

We are Members of Congress serving various constituencies across the United States and on various Committees in the House of Representatives. Last month, Speaker Nancy Pelosi appointed us to serve also on the House Democratic Working Group to engage with Ambassador Lighthizer to secure improvements to the renegotiated North American Free Trade Agreement (the new NAFTA or USMCA) that will bring broad, bipartisan support for passage of the bill. The Working Group's mandate is to focus on four key areas for improvement: the worker protections, environment provisions, provisions affecting affordable access to medicines, and enforcement of the entire agreement.

As part of the Working Group's efforts to meaningfully improve the deal, Ways & Means Trade Subcommittee Chairman Blumenauer led a Congressional delegation on a visit to Mexico earlier this month. To inform our negotiations with the Administration, it is important for us to see labor conditions on the ground in Mexico and hear directly from Mexican workers, especially in manufacturing sectors that have seen the highest level of outsourcing from the United States. As we have seen under 25 years of the NAFTA, if Mexico's workers do not have rights, good wages, or acceptable working conditions, American workers' rights, wages, and working conditions suffer too.

Goodyear is an iconic American company. In 2015, Goodyear announced a \$500 million investment to build a tire plant in Mexico, expected to manufacture six million tires a year. At the time of this announcement, it was stated that this plant would serve the Mexican and Brazilian markets as well as some overflow into the U.S. that the company could not supply from its domestic operations. The San Luis Potosí plant opened in 2017.

Before opening or hiring a single line worker, Goodyear had already signed a contract with a non-democratic "protection" union. Less than six months after starting its operations, conditions were so poor that workers at the plant went on a wildcat strike demanding a democratic union, higher wages, and improved conditions. Wages for the most junior workers at the plant amount to less than \$2 per hour while the highest paid production workers make just over \$6 per hour. (By contrast, the base rate for most workers under the USW Goodyear