

March 21, 2014

VIA FACSIMILE AND EMAIL

202-395-4549

michael_froman@ustr.gov

Ambassador Michael Froman
U.S. Trade Representative
Office of the United States Trade Representative
1700 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20508

Re: Support for Strong Transparency and Anti-Corruption in Trade Agreements

Dear Ambassador Froman:

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, under your leadership, is nearing the end of negotiations for a Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement with 11 countries bordering the Pacific Ocean and beginning the long-awaited negotiations on the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) agreement with the European Union. We are writing to urge inclusion of strong anti-corruption and legal and regulatory transparency requirements in both agreements, something that is only possible with dedicated U.S. leadership.

All of our negotiating partners are party to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and other multilateral conventions prohibiting corruption and thus are familiar with these kinds of provisions. The benefit to our country, businesses and consumers of including anti-corruption and transparency provisions in the TPP and TTIP agreements is that the obligations can be more detailed and will be enforceable in dispute settlement.

Corruption must be stopped for investment and trade to flourish, and for those governed to receive the opportunities and benefits to which they are entitled. Including strong, enforceable provisions in the TPP and TTIP agreements will help protect legitimate business and promote government accountability. Their inclusion would also make a statement that the United States and our negotiating partners are committed to addressing corruption for the economic and social welfare of all citizens.

We appreciate your efforts to use the TPP and TTIP negotiations to achieve the highest level of commitment to combat corruption and look forward to working with you and your colleagues as the negotiations proceed.

We would be glad to discuss our views further with you and your staff. You can contact Claudia Dumas, Chief Executive Officer, or Laurie Sherman, Senior Legal Advisor, Transparency International-USA at 202-589-1616.

Sincerely,

Transparency International-USA

Committee for Economic Development

Global Integrity

The Partnership for Transparency Fund

Frank Vogl, Member, the Transparency International
Advisory Council

cc: Barbara Weisel, AUSTR for Southeast Asia and the Pacific
L. Daniel Mullaney, AUSTR for Europe and the Middle East
Matthew Jaffe, Office of the General Counsel
Willis Martyn, Office of the General Counsel