

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 9, 2017

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you prepare to welcome Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to the White House, we urge you to use this opportunity to highlight the impediments facing American exports in the Japanese market. The story of Japanese market protectionism is nothing new and has been occurring for decades. Any discussion of new trade policy with Japan must raise the following concerns:

- **Consideration of a bi-lateral agreement should not come at the expense of U.S. workers and manufacturers.** Last year our trade deficit with Japan was \$69 billion - America's second largest trade deficit. Due to market restrictions, American car manufacturers only sold 19,000 cars in Japan in 2015. During the same time, Japanese manufacturers sold 1.6 million cars in the United States. This trade imbalance must be addressed with Prime Minister Abe.
- **Japan has directly intervened 376 times in the currency market since the 1980s.** Currency manipulation by Japan has resulted in large trade deficits which have displaced hundreds of thousands of U.S. jobs. The U.S. should not enter into any trade agreement with Japan without robust, enforceable provisions to prevent currency manipulation.
- **Market barriers in Japan must be eliminated in order to fully achieve equal market access for American manufacturers.** Japan has used technical automotive regulations as a means to protect local markets by creating excessively difficult and costly regulatory certification requirements.

While Japan is a very important ally to the United States, these unfair trade practices have had enormous, devastating impacts to the American manufacturing sector. American workers deserve to have fair access for their products in the global market. It is imperative that the unfair issues listed above are included in any discussion on trade with the Japanese government and we urge you to raise these issues in your discussion with Prime Minister Abe.

Sincerely,

  
Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress

  
Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress