



# INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS AFL-CIO & CLC

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Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 90,000 members of the International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers (IFPTE), we are writing regarding the recently agreed to United States-Mexico-Canada trade Agreement (USMCA).

IFPTE does recognize that there are improvements incorporated in the USMCA compromise deal compared to the 2017 version. For example, the labor movement and House Democratic negotiators worked with the United States Trade Representative (USTR) to establish a rapid response enforcement mechanism, strengthen labor and environmental enforcement mechanisms, eliminate panel blocking, and remove some egregious protections for multi-national corporations, including doing away with the provisions that would have limited access to medicines. Indeed, these are enhancements compared to NAFTA and the original version of the USMCA.

However, IFPTE remains concerned that this agreement, overall, will have limited positive impact for working people in the United States, Canada and Mexico, while not going far enough to reverse the movement of jobs and manufacturing from the United States and Canada to Mexico and elsewhere. In our view, the final USMCA agreement represents a missed opportunity to shift the paradigm from the market-fundamentalist, pro-corporate NAFTA approach to trade and globalization to a trade model that shares gains from globalization with workers families and communities.

IFPTE continues to believe that our approach to globalization should be based on three basic principles. First, the purpose of an economy is to raise living standards and improve well-being for its citizens. Second, every country has legitimate national interests, and it is the appropriate role of public policy to pursue those national interests in ways that do not unfairly burden people in other countries. Lastly, our trade policy should prioritize public interest, rather than allowing powerful private interests to guide trade policy. While the USMCA contains some improvements over NAFTA, the recent deal provides only incremental change to a failed policy. It continues to fall short in terms of our three principles.

It is clear that NAFTA, and other agreements modeled after it, have diminished the role of government, put business and investor interests first, and blurred our national identity by merging our economy into the global economy. IFPTE remains dubious that the USMCA will result in a positive change to this standard.

Sincerely,

Paul Shearon,  
President

Matthew Biggs,  
Secretary-Treasurer/  
Legislative Director