

December 18, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the members of the Electronic Transactions Association (ETA), I am writing in support of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement Implementation Act, H.R. 5430, (USMCA), which is scheduled for consideration by the House of Representatives tomorrow.

Ratifying the USMCA would strengthen U.S. cross border digital trade leadership and advance electronic payment products and services ability to grow platforms and services that enable engagement with the digital economy. As Congress considers the many important provisions in the USMCA, we urge lawmakers to take into account the significance of the digital trade rules on the United States economy and to take the necessary steps to ratify the USMCA and start receiving the myriad of benefits.

ETA is the leading trade association for the payments industry, representing over 500 companies that offer electronic transaction processing products and services; its membership spans the breadth of the payments industry to include independent sales organizations, payments networks, financial institutions, transaction processors, mobile payments products and services, payments technologies, equipment suppliers, and online small business lenders.

Digital technology drives global commerce and ensures payments happen on time and in the right amount. The agreement sets a new and important precedent for modern trade rules that reflect the importance of data, technology, and innovation in the United States – and the North American – economy.

Businesses and entrepreneurs in every American state and every community use the internet to sell and export their goods and services across the globe and the USMCA provides strong provisions in the agreement allow for the free flow of information across borders. This is essential to the vibrancy of the international economy and ensures American businesses and entrepreneurs can easily access data and provide services to partners in Canada and Mexico.

Additionally, the USMCA encourages the flow of data across borders and recognizes that the wide availability of information leads to more trade and economic growth. By barring any country from requiring any sector to use or locate computing facilities in their territory as a condition for conducting business, this provision will allow companies to store their data to produce the most benefit. Leveraging the global, interconnected nature of the internet is beneficial to all consumers and small businesses. USMCA helps achieves these benefits.



USMCA advances the privacy protections. USMCA encourages the United States, Canada, and Mexico to each adopt a flexible privacy law to protect consumers, but asks each country to adopt mechanisms to promote compatibility between these different laws.

Ratification of the USMCA would be a boost for the American economy and bring predictable rules for all companies that use electronic payments in North America. The United States has an important opportunity to continue to be the world's leader in global commerce by passing the USMCA.

We urge the House to vote in favor of H.R. 5430.

We appreciate your leadership on this important issue. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly at stalbott@electran.org.

Sincerely,



Scott Talbott
Senior Vice President of Government Relations
Electronic Transactions Association

cc: U.S. House of Representatives

