

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

His Excellency Gary Doer
The Ambassador of Canada
Embassy of Canada
501 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

The United States places tremendous value on our trade relationship with Canada. With \$632 billion in total goods trade (both import and export) in 2013, Canada is the largest goods trading partner for the United States. At \$300 billion in total goods exported to Canada, your country is also our largest goods export market. In support of increased goods trade between our two countries, and as members of the United States Senate representing states that border Canada, we are writing to express our concern regarding Canada's *de minimis* threshold on low-value imports to Canada.

De minimis thresholds vary greatly from country to country. However, Canada has one of the lowest thresholds at \$20 per shipment or a personal exemption of \$200 for Canadians returning from international travel. The United States has a *de minimis* threshold of \$200 for imported goods delivered via a shipper, while Americans returning from international travel have a personal exemption of \$800 before meeting the *de minimis* threshold. Proposed legislation in the U.S. Senate would raise the *de minimis* level for imported goods delivered via a shipper in the U.S. to \$800.

An increase in Canada's *de minimis* level would have a significant and positive impact on U.S.-Canada trade and help to bolster increased economic growth for both countries. An increase would particularly benefit small and medium-sized businesses operating in e-commerce. Further, in addition to generating net economic benefits, an increase in Canada's *de minimis* threshold would create customs efficiencies, allowing the Canada Border Services Agency to dedicate more resources toward higher risk shipments.

Canada's low *de minimis* threshold represents an unnecessary trade barrier between our two countries, particularly for low-value, low-risk shipments. We respectfully urge the Canadian government to increase its *de minimis* threshold, ideally putting it on par with that of the United States, in order to further expand our historic and mutually beneficial trade relationship.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell
U.S. Senator

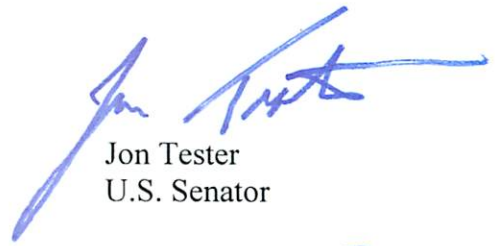


James Risch
U.S. Senator

cc: Ambassador Michael Froman




Mike Crapo
U.S. Senator



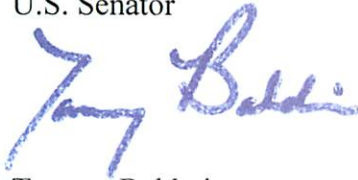
Jon Tester
U.S. Senator



Steve Daines
U.S. Senator



Gary Peters
U.S. Senator



Tammy Baldwin
U.S. Senator



Chuck Schumer
U.S. Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
U.S. Senator



Kelly Ayotte
U.S. Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
U.S. Senator



Angus King
U.S. Senator