



THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON

March 17, 2020

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative McCarthy:

In accordance with section 105(a)(1)(A) of the Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 (the Trade Priorities and Accountability Act), and pursuant to authority delegated to me by the President, I am pleased to notify Congress that the President intends to initiate negotiations on a trade agreement with the Republic of Kenya (“Kenya”). We will consult closely with Congress in developing our negotiating positions to ensure that they are consistent with Congressional priorities and objectives outlined in section 102 of the Trade Priorities and Accountability Act. We intend to initiate negotiations with Kenya as soon as practicable, but no earlier than 90 days from the date of this notice.

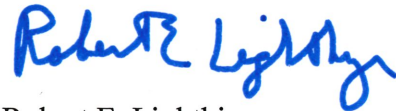
In pursuing negotiations on a trade agreement with Kenya, we are responding to Congress’ support, as expressed in the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), to negotiate reciprocal and mutually beneficial trade agreements that serve the interests of both the United States and the countries of sub-Saharan Africa. Our vision is to conclude an agreement with Kenya that can serve as a model for additional agreements in Africa, leading to a network of agreements that contribute to Africa’s regional integration objectives. In addition, our goal is to conclude an agreement that builds on the objectives of AGOA and will serve as an enduring foundation to expand U.S.-Africa trade and investment across the continent.

The economic relationship of the United States and Kenya is growing and presents significant opportunities for U.S. trade and investment to the benefit of Americans and Kenyans alike. President Trump and President Kenyatta established the U.S.-Kenya Trade and Investment Working Group in August 2018 to explore ways to deepen economic ties between the United States and Kenya and lay the groundwork for a stronger future trade relationship. This work has included exploring the viability of a future free trade agreement, maximizing the benefits of AGOA for the duration of the program, strengthening commercial cooperation, and developing short-term solutions to reduce barriers to trade and investment. Total two-way trade between the United States and Kenya was approximately \$1.0 billion in 2018.

The United States seeks to support higher-paying jobs in the United States and grow the U.S. economy by improving U.S. opportunities for trade and investment with Kenya. Our specific objectives for this negotiation will comply with the specific objectives set forth by Congress in section 102 of the Trade Priorities and Accountability Act. In doing so, we aim to address both tariff and non-tariff barriers and to achieve fairer, more balanced trade. We are committed to working closely with Congress, including on matters of scope, and to following the requirements of the Trade Priorities and Accountability Act and the guidelines issued pursuant to section 104(a)(3) of the Act. Further, we recognize that effective implementation and enforcement of the commitments made by our trading partners under our trade agreements are vital to the success of those agreements, and we will seek provisions that ensure effective implementation and enforcement.

We are committed to concluding these negotiations with timely and substantive results for U.S. consumers, businesses, farmers, ranchers, and workers, consistent with U.S. priorities and negotiating objectives established by Congress in statute. We look forward to continuing to work with Congress as negotiations with Kenya begin, and we commit to working with you closely and transparently throughout the process.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert E. Lighthizer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "R" and "L".

Robert E. Lighthizer