



July 8, 2019

Hon. Bennie G. Thompson  
Chairman  
Committee on Homeland Security  
H2-176 Ford House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Thompson:

On behalf of the Border Trade Alliance, we write to express our support for the Customs Trade Partnership Against Terrorism Reauthorization Act of 2019.

Since the program's inception, the BTA has been a vocal CTPAT supporter and strong advocate for the promotion of greater dialogue and information sharing between the trade community and Customs and Border Protection. We share in the belief that we can strengthen supply chains against criminal acts while also expediting cargo processing at our ports of entry.

This legislation makes important updates to the program to make it reflective of today's trade environment while ensuring that tangible benefits to participants are not diminished.

The BTA appreciates the bill's direction to CBP that the agency must consult with industry when implementing new or updated security criteria; that it ensures participants receive quantifiable benefits such as shorter wait times and fewer inspections at ports of entry for participation in CTPAT; and that it expands specific benefits to all participants at various stages of the CBP vetting and site visit validation process. These are important provisions to ensure that the program continues to attract new partners and retains existing ones. If program benefits begin to wane, then the effectiveness of CTPAT will as well.

We also support the bill's protections for industry when appealing a suspension or removal from the program to mitigate economic hardships. Companies require a clear, unambiguous process for appeals in order to avoid supply chain disruptions that could negatively impact their suppliers or customers.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important and necessary legislation to reauthorize CTPAT for the first time in over a decade. The BTA looks forward to working with you and members of your committee to ensure the bill's passage and it being signed into law to ensure CTPAT's success in the years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Britton Clarke".

Britton Clarke  
President

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paola Avila".

Paola Avila  
Chair

CC: Rep. Mike Rogers  
Rep. Henry Cuellar