

MICHAEL F. BENNET  
COLORADO

COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY  
FINANCE  
INTELLIGENCE  
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0609

WASHINGTON, DC:  
261 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
(202) 224-5852  
COLORADO:  
CESAR E. CHAVEZ BUILDING  
1244 SPEER BOULEVARD  
DENVER, CO 80204  
(303) 455-7600  
<http://www.bennet.senate.gov>

January 17, 2025

Secretary of State-designate Sen. Marco Rubio  
Secretary of the Treasury-designate Scott Bessent  
Secretary of Commerce-designate Howard Lutnick  
National Security Advisor-designate Rep. Mike Waltz  
U.S. Trade Representative-designate Jamieson Greer

Trump Vance 2025 Transition, Inc.  
1601 Forum Place  
Suite 403  
West Palm Beach, Florida 33401

Dear Sen. Rubio, Mr. Bessent, Mr. Lutnick, Rep. Waltz, and Mr. Greer:

As you help President-elect Donald Trump craft his international economic policy, I write to encourage you to consider a comprehensive strategy beyond his proposed tariffs that includes additional policies to drive broad-based American growth, increase domestic and regional capacity, and protect U.S. national and economic security. Strengthening our economic relationships with Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) – among other regions – will increase U.S. economic dynamism, reinforce critical supply chains, deliver greater prosperity and opportunity for the American people, and tackle the problems of migration at their root.

Targeted tariffs can be an important tool to combat unfair trade practices that undermine our ability to manufacture critical products at the necessary economies of scale. But indiscriminately wielding tariffs and other punitive policies would likely raise costs for Americans and fail to fully address the challenges facing our country. These tools have an important role to play, but you must match them with supportive domestic and international policies.

These domestic policies include the *CHIPS and Science Act* and *Inflation Reduction Act*, which continue to spur American manufacturing, support cutting-edge innovation, and ensure the United States leads the world in emerging technology. International policies include those President-elect Trump pursued during his first term, such as the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), the América Crece initiative to facilitate prosperity and security in the LAC region, the U.S.-Japan Trade Agreement, and productive trade talks with India.

But the United States must do more. We should pursue trade agreements and programs that serve U.S. economic and strategic interests – such as securing U.S. access to critical materials and competing with China in regions and sectors with national security importance. Unfettered trade has not and will not serve Americans' interests. Trade, like tariffs, must be one instrument

among many we must use to solve specific challenges, such as countering China's dominance in critical sectors and securing essential supply chains.

One way to implement this strategy close to home would be through my and Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA)'s bipartisan and bicameral Americas Act – which would boost mutually-beneficial trade between the United States and LAC countries, bring manufacturing back to the United States and the Western Hemisphere, counter China's economic coercion of LAC governments, and create pathways to economic security that stem illegal migration and transnational criminal organizations' ability to recruit and inflict violence.

To ensure the U.S. continues to lead in the twenty-first century, trade policy must consider protective measures that foster domestic capacity and prevent illicit trade activities while also offering positive frameworks for increased cooperation with key allies and partners. America cannot meet today's challenges by building barriers and going it alone.

I look forward to discussing these issues with you and stand ready to work with President-elect Trump's administration to advance trade policies that serve the American people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael F. Bennet". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being the most prominent part.

Michael F. Bennet  
United States Senator