

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 28, 2018

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

For years, we have called for a tougher approach with China on trade. We know that you share our frustration that past U.S.-China dialogues and trade enforcement efforts have failed to achieve meaningful results and we appreciate that you have initiated much more aggressive action than past administrations. However, we have seen disturbing reports that you may be considering backing down on further action against China in order to reach an agreement at the G-20. We urge you to stand firm against China if meaningful concessions are not made. American jobs, American innovation and long-term American economic prosperity are at stake.

News reports indicate that in recent trade negotiations China has not offered to make structural reforms that are necessary for the U.S. to alter our current trade enforcement efforts. China has not made concessions on its use of massive government subsidies to boost its emerging industries. They do not allow U.S. companies to freely compete in their markets. They dump cheap, and too often dangerously shoddy, goods into our markets. They continue the abusive practice of technology transfers and trade espionage that threatens our intellectual property and know-how.

As highlighted in a report this month from U.S. Trade Representative Lighthizer, China has not fundamentally altered its predatory trade practices that were the impetus for the initial 301 tariffs. Notably, the report highlights that China's government continues its efforts to steal and extort U.S. intellectual property. The report finds rising incidences of Chinese state-sponsored cyber-attacks in spite of years of diplomatic agreements to stop such attacks. In light of this activity, it is important that the U.S. not make any deal that fails to meaningfully address this predatory behavior.

U.S. industries are poised to produce good-paying jobs by selling to consumers around the world, but they will increasingly rely on the protection of their intellectual property abroad and a level global playing field to compete. China's predatory practices are the biggest threat to these industries and American jobs. As China's economy continues to grow, these problems will only become more difficult to address.

Again, while we hope that talks with China will achieve meaningful results for U.S. workers, we urge you to not back down for the sake of a weak and meaningless agreement should China fail to make real concessions.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator