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July 24, 2013

Ambassador Michael Froman
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Froman:

I write to congratulate you on your recent confirmation as our new Trade Representative and to bring to your attention the enclosed report, *Made in Vietnam: Labor Rights Violations in Vietnam's Export Manufacturing Sector*, published recently by the Worker Rights Consortium.

This report compiles the stark evidence that export industry workers in Vietnam, one of the countries in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations, are routinely denied the basic labor standards that the United States requires from its trading partners – namely the fundamental freedom of association and right to collective bargaining that our workers take for granted and the elimination of both compulsory and child labor.

As the Administration moves aggressively to complete TPP negotiations this year, I would be interested in your assessment as to whether a country such as Vietnam would have the ability to comply with the obligations under the labor chapter of the TPP on a future date after the agreement is signed. If such assessment is difficult given that the TPP negotiations are ongoing, and the labor chapter has not been finalized, I would ask you to assess whether you believe that Vietnam is currently in compliance with the obligations under the basic labor standards described in the Bipartisan Trade Agreement of May 10, 2007. This agreement incorporated the substantive obligations of the 1998 International Labor Organization's Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

The U.S. must lead in enforcement of labor obligations that inform our national trade policy. I look forward to hearing from you regarding what steps the Administration is willing to take ensure that Vietnam is able to comply with such obligations. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this inquiry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George Miller".

GEORGE MILLER
Senior Democratic Member

Attachment