June 29, 2018

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Ross:

We are writing to express our concerns with the Administration's decision to initiate an investigation under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 to determine whether imports of automobiles including SUVs, vans and light trucks, and automotive parts, into the United States threaten to impair our nation's national security. We share your desire to bring more automobile production to the United States and ensure America has a strong and vibrant automobile manufacturing presence. However, we are concerned that adding a 25 percent tariff on automobiles and auto parts will have the reverse effect.

The United States' auto industry has changed and adapted over the last 25 years, and nowhere is that exemplified more than in the state of Georgia. Today, $2.9 billion has been invested by auto manufacturers in Georgia, which is home to the headquarters for Mercedes-Benz USA and Porsche Cars North America. In terms of auto manufacturing facilities, Georgia is also now home to Kia Motors Manufacturing Georgia and Honda Precision Parts of Georgia. Honda, Hyundai, Mercedes-Benz, and Toyota all have finance offices in Georgia and BMW, Honda, Hyundai, Kia, Mazda, Infiniti, Nissan, Subaru, Lexus, Volkswagen, Audi, and Volvo have sales and training centers. Honda, Hyundai, Kia, Mazda, and Mitsubishi have parts centers. Together, these facilities employ thousands of our constituents.

According to "Here for America's" 2017 report, international automakers have invested $2.9 billion in Georgia, generating over 69,000 total jobs, and providing over $4.1 billion in compensation to our fellow Georgians. Additionally, the economic activity of international automakers in Georgia generated $681 million in state and local tax receipts and other revenues, and $1 billion in federal tax receipts and other revenues for the federal government.

Georgia also has other employment directly tied to international automakers. The Port of Brunswick is the single largest auto port in the country and more than 12 major auto manufacturers, supported by three auto processors, utilize the Colonel's Island Terminal at the Port of Brunswick. Additionally, combining Roll-on/Roll-off cargo for Savannah and Brunswick ranks as the nation's second-busiest operation. Finally, over the past 10 years, Georgia Ports Authority has led the nation with a growth rate of 8 percent — nearly four times the rate of the nearest competitor.

We urge you to consider the negative impact tariffs on autos and automotive parts would have on thousands of American jobs and the United States' automotive industry. Please do not hesitate to contact our offices, we would be happy engage in further discussion.

Sincerely,
A. Drew Ferguson, IV, D.M.D.
Member of Congress

Johnny Isakson
United States Senator

David A. Perdue
United States Senator

Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

Rob Woodall
Member of Congress

Austin Scott
Member of Congress

Doug Collins
Member of Congress

Barry Loudermilk
Member of Congress

David Scott
Member of Congress