

JACKIE WALORSKI
2ND DISTRICT, INDIANA

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1402

October 8, 2021

The Honorable Gina Raimondo
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

The Honorable Tom Vilsack
Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Raimondo, Secretary Vilsack, and Secretary Buttigieg,

I write to you all as the co-chairs of President Biden's Supply Chain Disruptions Task Force regarding the ongoing supply chain and labor issues that continue to impact Indiana's Second Congressional District, one of the largest manufacturing centers in the country. The manufacturers and small businesses in my district are resilient and they have demonstrated a strong record of adapting to evolving business conditions. Yet, these economic powerhouses are becoming increasingly exasperated with the devastating supply chain and labor challenges that have persisted far into the COVID-19 pandemic.

The continuing challenges within the U.S. supply chain and labor market show no indication of easing. This open-ended crisis is jeopardizing many of the economic gains achieved during the last administration. I want my district and our country to build on these gains, and it is vital that the Task Force prioritizes commonsense, bipartisan solutions to secure America's supply chains and restore the workforce. In order to address the supply chain backlog, the Task Force should consider providing limited regulatory relief that could help certain transportation sectors to move products more efficiently and unjam disruptive bottlenecks at ports, warehouses, and railroad terminals.

I understand that labor shortages within these important industries have severely limited the capacity to transport products to their destinations. Now more than ever, it is critical to utilize our nation's workforce training and safety net programs to help individuals find and keep good-paying jobs, including in the transportation sector. We cannot keep an entire generation of American workers relegated to the sidelines. By providing job training and equipping Americans for success, this commonsense reform would help move people from welfare to prosperity, reduce the labor shortage, and resolve the supply chain bottleneck.

I would welcome the opportunity to discuss the current economic situation in Indiana's Second Congressional District with the Task Force and discuss any additional ideas that I think could help the administration solve these problems. For further discussion, please contact my Legislative Director Martin Schultz at 202-225-3915.

Sincerely,



Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress