

October 30, 2025

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
135 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chair, Senate Appropriations Committee
135 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Collins and Vice Chairwoman Murray,

US businesses believe US leadership in key international organizations is essential to our global competitiveness. As such we are writing to express our strong support for full US engagement and funding for the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), International Labour Organization (ILO), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and World Trade Organization (WTO).

The OECD, ILO, FAO and WTO play crucial roles in setting standards and rules that affect supply chains, innovation, a level playing field for US business, access to critical minerals, US agricultural exports, and the ability of US companies to scale and compete globally—even when those standards are not adopted domestically. These institutions provide platforms where the United States can advance strategic priorities and prevent outcomes that would disadvantage American industry. The OECD and ILO's formal role for business is particularly important, as it ensures that US companies have a direct seat at the table where rules affecting their competitiveness are made.

Of note:

- Few international organizations are as supportive of US values and economic priorities as the OECD, an institution that advances evidence- and data-based policy guidance and assessment. Many countries draw directly from OECD policy outcome documents and incorporate them into national legislation. Toward that end, it is critical that US Treasury maintains a seat at the negotiating table with other OECD members to design the terms of a 'side-by-side' agreement on Pillar Two that guarantees US tax sovereignty, and that the OECD supports the success of such agreement, which is a top priority of both the US Treasury and US multinationals.
- The ILO negotiates conventions that are legally binding and impact US businesses even when the US chooses not to ratify them. Other governments around the world often ratify conventions quickly, creating new regulatory obligations and liability risks for US companies that operate in those countries.

- The FAO develops standards and regulations shaping how food and agriculture are regulated worldwide, influencing border inspections, labeling, and safety standards. In many developing countries, FAO standards serve as the default baseline for compliance—making US participation essential to maintaining science-based norms and avoiding rules misaligned with US law and innovation. Importantly, FAO administers the Codex Alimentarius Commission (Codex) and International Plant Protection Commission (IPPC), which ensure international food safety and plant health standards are based on science, reducing non-tariff barriers to trade and opening markets for US agricultural exports.
- US business relies on the WTO as a stable rules-based trading system that facilitates 70 percent of global trade as well as US economic growth and competitiveness. It plays an essential role in advancing rules that safeguard US innovation and competitiveness and we rely on US engagement to preserve the e-commerce moratorium which is set to expire in 2026 at the 14th Ministerial Conference meeting in Cameroon.

Without a strong US voice in these institutions, there is a real risk that international policy norms could evolve in ways that conflict with US priorities and create burdensome or misaligned obligations for American companies operating globally. US government engagement ensures these frameworks reflect good scientific input and reject political or protectionist approaches.

We agree with the Trump Administration on the need for reform in many of these organizations, updating their rules and procedures to better address 21st century economic challenges and returning attention to the founding principles that unite their membership. US business stands ready to work with the Administration to ensure they are more fit for purpose and aligned with US interests. Without strong US engagement, however, countries that do not share our values will fill the gap, promoting regulatory frameworks that stifle US innovation and tilt the playing field against us.

Sustained US involvement—which depends on retaining adequate funding—is vital to ensure that American priorities shape the rules of the global economy. We urge you to provide full funding for these institutions and ensure the US remains a leader in shaping the global economic landscape.

Best regards,

ACT | The App Association
American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)
American Feed Industry Association
American Seed Trade Association (ASTA)
Coalition of Services Industries (CSI)
Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA)
Consumer Technology Association (CTA)

Corn Refiners Association
CropLife America
Fresh Produce Association of the Americas
Illinois Corn Growers Association
Independent Bakers Association
International Fresh Produce Association
Meat Import Council of America
National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA)
National Corn Growers Association
National Grain and Feed Association
National Pork Producers Council
National Turkey Federation
North American Export Grain Association
Sweetener Users Association
U.S. Apple Association
USA Rice
US Council for International Business (USCIB)