



December 21, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

On behalf of the Border Trade Alliance, we write to you to encourage you to nominate a new ambassador to Mexico as soon as possible.

In this politically sensitive time, we believe a lead diplomat is required to oversee all aspects of the U.S.-Mexico relationship.

The migrant crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border, the beginning of a new Mexican presidential administration, and the adoption of the United States Mexico Canada Agreement (USMCA), all call for a seasoned professional who can expertly navigate this critically important binational relationship and best represent U.S. interests.

The ties between the U.S. and Mexico are strong ones. Economically, two-way trade value between the two countries was nearly \$616 billion in 2017, and the U.S. represents Mexico's largest source of foreign direct investment at nearly \$110 billion as of 2017. Mexico is also our country's second-largest source of imports. It's a bilateral relationship responsible for 5 million U.S. jobs.

Culturally, 36 million Americans report being of Mexican heritage. Socially, the U.S. serves as Mexico's largest source of tourism. A U.S. ambassador is the public-facing U.S. official responsible for all of these issues and more.

Our relationship with Mexico is too important for our country not to have an ambassador to ensure our interests there are properly represented, and ongoing political challenges only heighten the need. On behalf of the BTA, we would urge you to move quickly to designate a new U.S. ambassador to Mexico. To that end we would offer without hesitation our over 30 years of cross-border experience as a resource to your administration.

Sincerely,

Paola Avila
Chair

Britton Clarke
President

CC: Secretary of State Mike Pompeo