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United States Senate

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May 1, 2017

The Honorable Rex Tillerson
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Tillerson and Secretary Ross:

We write today to reaffirm our support for the completion of the Export Control Reform Initiative (ECR). Once completed, it will save taxpayer dollars, create American jobs and strengthen our national security. We are strong supporters of this initiative and respectfully urge you to complete it as soon as possible.

In 2009, a comprehensive review of the United States' export control system was undertaken with the goal of strengthening national security and the competitiveness of key domestic manufacturing and technology sectors. The review found that the current export control system is overly complicated and duplicative. This not only undermines the American economy, it also diminishes the ability of the United States government to focus its resources on the most critical national security priorities. Ultimately, the review led to the creation of ECR, which aimed to overhaul our nation's export control system.

The previous Administration implemented the reform in three phases. Phases I and II sought to reconcile definitions, regulations, and policies for export controls. Once completed, Phase III would cut red tape by streamlining the process through the creation of things like a single control list. While much of this work has been completed, there are still some important steps to take to ensure maximum efficiency. Three of the 21 categories of the United States Munitions List (USML) still need to be published as final rules. These are categories one, two, and three, which cover firearms, guns, and ammunition.

A stated goal of ECR is, "Improving the long-term health and competitiveness of the U.S. industrial base, which includes maintaining and expanding jobs." To maximize the positive economic impacts of ECR, the relevant agencies must complete their work on the remaining USML categories. Our states are home to world-class firearm and ammunition manufacturers. With streamlined regulations, these important businesses will be able to access new markets, create new jobs, and hire hard-working Americans.

We will continue to be vocal supporters of completing ECR to ensure American businesses are able to be competitive in the export market while also bolstering the security of the United States. We stand ready to assist you in completing this process.

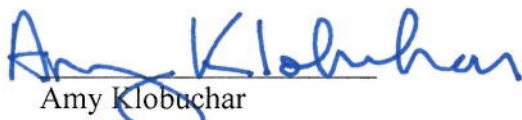
Sincerely,

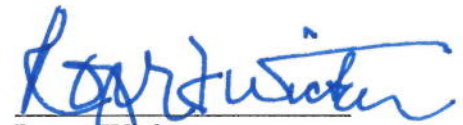

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United States Senator



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United States Senator

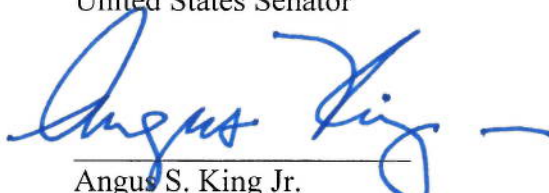

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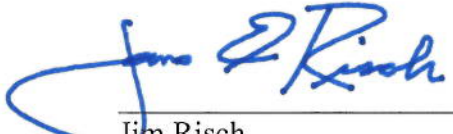

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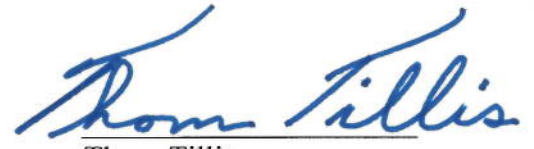
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Susan Collins
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United States Senator



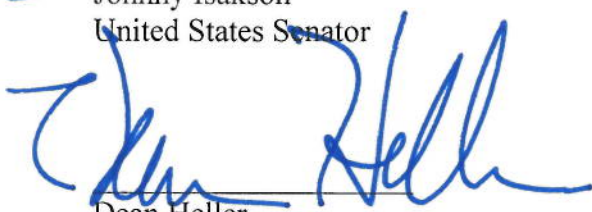
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