



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

January 7, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
U.S. Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
U.S. House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
U.S. House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Schumer, Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, and Leader McCarthy:

We write to urge swift passage of a revised United States Innovation and Competition Act (USICA) to strengthen American economic competitiveness and reinvest in American manufacturing jobs. The USICA contains a number of provisions that will benefit Ohio, such as funding for the CHIPS for America Act and investments in research and manufacturing programs. Yet it also lacks provisions to enforce U.S. trade laws against countries, like China, who engage in unfair economic practices. We believe that the time and effort spent on the USICA should not be wasted and Congress should work together to send this legislation with an amended trade title to the President's desk without delay.

Coming on the heels of an unprecedented shortage of semiconductors, exacerbated by foreign governments luring this sector abroad and U.S. overreliance on overseas production, we applauded the USICA for including \$52 billion to fund the CHIPS for America Act. The need for this funding is self-evident: over the summer, General Motors, Ford, and other automotive companies announced short-term plant closures in Lima and Toledo, in many cases due to pandemic-related production issues at overseas manufacturers of automotive-grade chips. In light of the far-reaching consequences for our nation's economy and national security, there is bipartisan consensus in favor of funding the CHIPS for America Act to catalyze new semiconductor investments in the United States—we should move quickly to ensconce that consensus in law.

In addition to funding for semiconductor investment, the USICA also contains a panoply of provisions designed to support innovation and strengthen Ohio's manufacturing base broadly. For example, expansion of the Manufacturing USA Institutes would immediately invest in manufacturing innovation, such as the "America Makes" Institute in Youngstown. Additionally, the USICA's increase in funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership (MEP) at the Department of Commerce would help expand Ohio's network of MEPs such as the Manufacturing Extension Advocacy and Growth Network (MAGNET) in Cleveland. Finally, the bill's assistance for research and development (R&D) and early career research will support the

innovation that spurs economic growth. In agreement with the findings of academic researchers, we believe that investments in R&D and manufacturing innovation will act as strong multipliers to private investment.

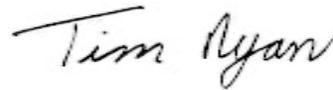
Despite these successes, the USICA does contain one glaring deficiency. It does not include any provisions to strengthen our trade remedy laws. Given that our trade remedy laws comprise the nation's first defense against unfair foreign economic practices and offshoring, especially against non-market actors like China, it is vital that the USICA include trade remedy provisions. Otherwise, the bill will undermine its new investments in manufacturing. Fortunately, we have developed a bipartisan, bicameral proposal to give the U.S. government new tools to respond to the creative ways in which China targets our industrial base. Consider the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI): right now, the Department of Commerce cannot combat subsidies provided by third countries as China does with the BRI. For the first time, our legislation gives the Department of Commerce tools to combat those subsidies. Therefore, we urge you to include the *Eliminating Global Market Distortions To Protect American Jobs Act of 2021*—also known as the Leveling the Playing Field Act 2.0—to any USICA compromise. As members of the Ohio congressional delegation, we strongly support the inclusion of this bill in USICA to ensure our Ohio industries and manufacturing companies are not lost to unfair trade practices.

In the face of COVID-19 challenges and unprecedented investments by global competitors, we urge you to lead both houses to adopt a final revised version of USICA that can be enacted promptly. With the inclusion of Leveling the Playing Field 2.0, we believe the investments in this bill have the potential to transform Ohio's economy.

Sincerely,



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress



Tim Ryan
Member of Congress



Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Shontel Brown
Member of Congress