

ADVISORY

FROM THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Chairman Nunes Announces Hearing on U.S.-India Trade Relations: Opportunities and Challenges

House Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee Chairman Devin Nunes (R-CA) today announced that the Subcommittee will hold a hearing on U.S.-India trade relations. The hearing will focus on the growing trade and investment relationship between the two countries as well as the significant challenges facing U.S. job creators in this vibrant and dynamic market. **The hearing will take place on Wednesday, March 13, 2013, in 1100 Longworth House Office Building, beginning at 10:00 A.M.**

In view of the limited time available to hear the witnesses, oral testimony at this hearing will be from invited witnesses only. However, any individual or organization not scheduled for an oral appearance may submit a written statement for consideration by the Committee and for inclusion in the printed record of the hearing. A list of invited witnesses will follow.

BACKGROUND:

The United States and India are experiencing the largest bilateral trade and investment flows ever recorded in this bilateral relationship, with total goods and services trade in 2011 recorded at \$86 billion. The United States is India's third largest trading partner, and India is our 13th largest trading partner. The trade relationship fits into the larger bilateral relationship, which, over the past 20 years, has seen an enhancement of relations between the world's largest and oldest democracies.

Despite this positive story, the U.S.-India trade relationship faces some difficult issues. As India strives to prepare its economy for the challenges of its changing demographics – around one-half of the population of 1.2 billion is under 25 years of age – the country is putting in place policies to increase manufacturing (currently 18% of GDP) as well as protect domestic industries and agricultural production. These policies reveal a disturbing trend in which India is turning inward and erecting barriers to trade and investment. U.S. manufacturers, farmers, and ranchers are negatively affected by these policies and find it increasingly difficult to sell to, enter, and operate in India.

This hearing on U.S.-India trade issues will explore the positive aspects of the bilateral relationship, examine India's tariff and non-tariff barriers that affect U.S. job creators and analyze how bilateral trade and investment can be further expanded. Areas of focus will include: tariff structures; investment; agriculture market access; the Bilateral Investment Treaty; India's National Manufacturing Policy; local content requirements; intellectual property policies; services; and U.S.-India cooperation in bilateral and multilateral trade fora.

In announcing this hearing, Chairman Nunes said, **“The U.S.-India partnership is and will continue to be crucial to the global economy in the 21st century, and bilateral trade and investment ties are the lynchpin to keeping this strategic relationship strong. India faces tremendous domestic political challenges as it seeks to grow its economy and lift millions of people out of poverty. However, I am concerned that India has launched a series of alarming policies that harm U.S. job creators and are counterproductive. I intend to push India to remove barriers that prevent U.S. companies, farmers, ranchers, and workers from competing on a level playing field and selling their world-class products and services to India's 1.2 billion consumers.”**

FOCUS OF THE HEARING:

The hearing will provide an opportunity to explore current U.S.-India trade issues such as: (1) deepening and expanding the long-term trade and investment relationship with India; (2) completing a Bilateral Investment Treaty, addressing investment caps, and exploring new investment opportunities; (3) addressing agricultural market access barriers; (4) evaluating India's National Manufacturing Policy and other forced localization policies including the Preferential Market Access (PMA) on information technology products; (5) ensuring the protection of intellectual property rights; (6) addressing the issuance of compulsory licenses, patent revocations, and other policies on pharmaceuticals; (7) examining India's system of cascading tariffs, taxes, and other import charges; and (8) advancing WTO negotiations, including “post-Doha” issues such as an international services agreement, Information Technology Agreement expansion, and a trade facilitation agreement in partnership with India.

DETAILS FOR SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS:

Please Note: Any person(s) and/or organization(s) wishing to submit for the hearing record must follow the appropriate link on the hearing page of the Committee website and complete the informational forms. From the Committee homepage, <http://waysandmeans.house.gov>, select “Hearings.” Select the hearing for which you would like to submit, and click on the link entitled, “Click here to provide a submission for the record.” Once you have followed the online instructions, submit all requested information. ATTACH your submission as a Word document, in compliance with the formatting requirements listed below, **by the close of business on Wednesday, March 27, 2013**. Finally, please note that due to the change in House mail policy, the U.S. Capitol Police will refuse sealed-package deliveries to all House Office Buildings. For questions, or if you encounter technical problems, please call (202) 225-1721 or (202) 225-3625.

FORMATTING REQUIREMENTS:

The Committee relies on electronic submissions for printing the official hearing record. As always, submissions will be included in the record according to the discretion of the Committee. The Committee will not alter the content of your submission, but we reserve the right to format it according to our guidelines. Any submission provided to the Committee by a witness, any supplementary materials submitted for the printed record, and any written comments in response to a request for written comments must conform to the guidelines listed below. Any submission or supplementary item not in compliance with these guidelines will not be printed, but will be maintained in the Committee files for review and use by the Committee.

1. All submissions and supplementary materials must be provided in Word format and **MUST NOT** exceed a total of 10 pages, including attachments. Witnesses and submitters are advised that the Committee relies on electronic submissions for printing the official hearing record.
2. Copies of whole documents submitted as exhibit material will not be accepted for printing. Instead, exhibit material should be referenced and quoted or paraphrased. All exhibit material not meeting these specifications will be maintained in the Committee files for review and use by the Committee.
3. All submissions must include a list of all clients, persons and/or organizations on whose behalf the witness appears. A supplemental sheet must accompany each submission listing the name, company, address, telephone, and fax numbers of each witness.

The Committee seeks to make its facilities accessible to persons with disabilities. If you are in need of special accommodations, please call 202-225-1721 or 202-226-3411 TTD/TTY in advance of the event (four business days notice is requested). Questions with regard to special accommodation needs in general (including availability of Committee materials in alternative formats) may be directed to the Committee as noted above.

Note: All Committee advisories and news releases are available on the World Wide Web at <http://www.waysandmeans.house.gov/>.