

December 10, 2019

The Honorable Chrystia Freeland
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of
Intergovernmental Affairs
Ottawa, Canada

The Honorable Jesús Seade Kuri
Under Secretary for North America and
Chief Trade Negotiator for North America
Mexico City, Mexico

Dear Deputy Prime Minister Freeland and Under Secretary Seade:

I have the honor to confirm the following understanding reached between the Government of the United States (“the United States”), the Government of the United Mexican States (“Mexico”), and the Government of Canada (“Canada”) with respect to the deletion of footnote 10 to USMCA Article 23.6 as published on May 30, 2019.

Under Article 1.2 of the USMCA, each Party affirms its existing rights and obligations with respect to each other under the WTO Agreement and other agreements to which it and another Party are party. Furthermore, the Parties agree they can comply with both their obligations under the WTO Agreement and Article 23.6. Footnote 10 to Article 23.6 merely reconfirmed this premise. Therefore, nothing should be read into the deletion of footnote 10 other than the fact that the footnote is unnecessary.

I would be grateful if you would confirm that your Governments share this understanding.

Sincerely,

Robert E. Lighthizer
United States Trade Representative