EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

April 22, 2015

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Chairman
Committee on Judiciary
United State Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Grassley:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Agreement. I appreciate your writing to me, and welcome the opportunity to clarify that the United States is not negotiating and will not agree to anything in TPP that would require any modification to U.S. immigration law or policy or any changes to the U.S. visa system.

While TPP will include a short chapter on temporary entry, which the United States supports, it is narrow in scope and does not change any aspect of U.S. immigration laws. This chapter will include good governance provisions on transparency with respect to visa processing and cooperation on border security. The kinds of provisions included in this chapter will be commitments by the TPP Parties to make information on requirements for temporary entry publicly available and to endeavor to provide information promptly on the status of temporary entry authorization applications. TPP will explicitly affirm the ability of TPP Parties to regulate the entry of foreign nationals into their territory.

As I stated in the hearing before Senate Finance Committee, other TPP Parties are negotiating temporary entry commitments with one another, but the United States is not. We will not be making offers or agreeing to anything in that area. No provision in TPP will require changes to U.S. immigration law, regulations, policy, or practice because our system is already operating in a manner that is consistent with the provisions in the temporary entry chapter.

Thank you again for your letter. I look forward to working with you as we continue to advance the TPP negotiations.

Sincerely,

Michael Froman

Ambassador Michael B. G. Froman