Citizens Trade Campaign

working together for social and environmental justice in trade policy

President Joseph R. Biden The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW Washington, DC 20500

Re: Shared Views on the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)

March 1, 2023

Dear President Biden:

As organizations whose constituencies continue to experience the harm caused by past corporatecentered trade agreements, we have a strong desire to work with your administration to advance goals you have described for the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) — particularly in terms of a long overdue shift in direction for U.S. trade policy that finally places working people and climate action at the center. We write today with shared views about IPEF terms that will be necessary for the pact to meet important labor, family farm and environmental goals, as well as recommendations for a more transparent and participatory process.

To begin, we are heartened by and appreciate reports that IPEF will not include some of the damaging provisions found in past trade agreements, such as the anti-worker, anti-environment and anti-democratic investor-state dispute settlement (ISDS) system and public procurement terms that could undermine "Buy America," "buy local" and "buy green" programs.

The list of countries selected as initial IPEF partners, however, includes many with records of labor rights violations, including unionist assassinations, human trafficking, forced labor, child labor and more. To advance your administration's promised worker-centered trade model, IPEF must include strong labor rights commitments based on standards set in the International Labor Organization's core conventions, and it must also include facility-specific enforcement mechanisms, building off the Rapid Response Mechanism in the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). IPEF signatory countries must also be required to make the changes to their labor laws necessary to align them with their new IPEF obligations *before* the pact is signed by the United States. IPEF must take steps forward relative to the USMCA, not backward, on labor rights and labor enforcement.

In terms of IPEF's climate provisions, "a step forward" will not be enough. Given that previous U.S. trade agreements, including the USMCA, fail to even mention the term "climate change," IPEF will need to be particularly ambitious in its climate provisions if it is to help the United States and Indo-Pacific region achieve their climate and environmental justice goals. Among other environmental measures, IPEF must require that countries adopt, implement and maintain

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binding climate standards, and must likewise extend swift-and-certain enforcement mechanisms to those provisions.

On the matter of "digital trade," IPEF's terms must not be allowed to undermine the administration's domestic anti-monopoly and tech regulation agenda by locking in international rules that threaten consumer privacy, data security, worker rights, civil rights, algorithm justice and competition policy here and throughout the Indo-Pacific. In comparison to the USMCA's digital terms, any data flow guarantees or limits on safeguarding where data can be processed or stored must be scaled back significantly in any IPEF deal, with much broader exceptions added to better protect Americans' personal data, as well as to protect good-paying jobs in the digital economy. IPEF also must not include provisions that create special secrecy guarantees for Big Tech firms' source codes and algorithms so that they can evade the pre-review and audits that are a feature of many criminal justice, civil rights, worker rights and other bills and the administration's AI Bill of Rights. As well, an IPEF must not establish non-discrimination terms similar to those included in the USMCA and Trans-Pacific Partnership that capture policies with "discriminatory effects" based on larger entities being more impacted by facially neutral policies of general application. Non-discrimination rules in IPEF must be limited to de facto discrimination or such rules will undermine competition policy efforts as well as labor laws and other public interest policies. As your administration, Congress and other IPEF countries all work hard to rein in Big Tech abuses, IPEF must not be used as a backdoor to undermine those efforts.

Likewise, IPEF's other provisions in both the trade pillar and other three pillars must also contribute to the creation of a worker-centered, climate-friendly trade model. For instance, socalled "Good Regulatory Practice" provisions must not replicate the terms of past trade proposals aimed at delaying, weakening and destroying future public interest policies before they are even created. And any agricultural provisions should allow for the creation of strategic food and grain reserves and other public investment in agricultural resilience and local food systems, include measures to stop land grabs and otherwise protect the human rights of farmers and farm workers, and set floors, rather than ceilings, when it comes to food safety and fair price measures for producers and consumers

Finally, the United States' requirement that IPEF negotiating parties sign confidentiality agreements undermines the ability for an informed citizenry to provide input on policy that impacts their livelihoods and communities; we urge you to terminate these confidentiality agreements. We also urge you to publish upcoming U.S. IPEF proposals for public comment prior to tabling them, including those on critical chapters like labor, the environment and digital trade that we understand will be tabled soon, in addition to all other texts. And we urge the United States and other countries to publish proposals and any draft composite texts at the close of each IPEF negotiating round. A more transparent and participatory negotiating process for IPEF would allow for a wider set of interests to provide informed input and ensure equitable treatment of communities which are not part of the official U.S. trade advisor system, mostly representing corporations who now have access to U.S. proposals and other confidential IPEF texts. Reversing an unnecessarily bureaucratic and obtuse trade negotiating regime requires operating in a transparent manner and would facilitate broader public support and confidence among civil society organizations.

We look forward to being partners with your administration throughout the IPEF negotiating process so that any final deal corrects the errors of past trade pacts and becomes a useful model for future agreements that deliver real benefits to people and the planet.

Sincerely,

Citizens Trade Campaign A Growing Culture A Well-Fed World Agricultural Justice Project Alliance for Democracy Amazon Labor Union American Economic Liberties Project American Friends Service Committee Americans for Democratic Action (ADA) Americas Program Amnesty International USA Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO Association of Flight Attendants-CWA Association of Western Pulp & Paper Workers Backbone Campaign Biofuelwatch BlueGreen Alliance Campaign for America's Future Center for Biological Diversity Center for Digital Democracy Center for Global Justice Center for Policy Analysis on Trade & Health (CPATH) Center for Sustainable Economy Climate Crisis Policy Coalition of Labor Union Women Codepink Communications Workers of America (CWA) Communities and Postal Workers United Corporate Accountability Lab Corporate Campaign, Inc. Dean's Beans Organic Coffee Company Debs-Jones-Douglass Institute **Demand Progress Education Fund**

Environmentalists Against War Equal Exchange Ethix Merch Family Farm Defenders Farm and Ranch Freedom Alliance Fight for the Future Food & Water Watch Food Empowerment Project Foundation for Integrative AIDS Research (FIAR) Freedom to Thrive Friends of the Earth U.S. Global Action to Prevent War and Armed Conflict Global Exchange Global Justice Institute Metropolitan Community Churches GMO/Toxin Free USA **Government Information Watch** Green America Greenpeace USA Health Action International Asia Pacific Holy Cross International Justice Office Hope Border Institute Inlandboatmen's Union - Marine Division ILWU Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy Institute for Policy Studies - Global Economy Project Intemerate Earth International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) International Brotherhood of Boilermakers International Brotherhood of Teamsters International Federation of Professional and Technical Engineers (IFPTE) International Women's Alliance Labor Council for Latin American Advancement Labor Network for Sustainability Latino Farmers & Ranchers International, Inc. Legacy of Equality Leadership and Organizing (LELO) Living Economies Forum Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns Mountain Lion Foundation National Association of Consumer Advocates National Family Farm Coalition National Jobs for All Network

National Organization for Women Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice Nicaragua Center for Community Action North American Marine Alliance Novasutras Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU) **Our Revolution** Partners for Dignity & Rights Pax Christi USA Peace Action People's Health Movement-USA Popular Resistance Presbyterian Church USA Pride at Work Progressive Democrats of America Public Citizen RadiationTruth.com **Responsible Sourcing Network** Rethink Trade **Revolving Door Project Rootcity Press** RootsAction.org Sierra Club Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team Social Security Works Sunrise Movement The Borneo Project The Earth Bill Network The Oakland Institute The Rick Smith Show The United Methodist Church -- General Board of Church and Society Trade Justice Education Fund Transport Workers Union of America Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community Unite All Workers for Democracy (UAWD) United Brotherhood of Carpenters United Church of Christ, Justice and Local Church Ministries United Electrical, Radio & Machine Workers of America (UE) Veterans For Peace

Witness for Peace Solidarity Collective Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, U.S. Women's Voices for the Earth

350 Eastside 350 Seattle 350PDX A2D2 Ann Arbor in Divisible for Democracy Acterra: Action for a Healthy Planet AFT 4999 **AFT Washington** Albany County Central Labor Council ALIGN Alliance for Democracy - Oregon Alliance for the Wild Rockies Alliance of South Asians Taking Action (ASATA) American Friends Service Committee, Colorado Americans for Democratic Action Iowa Anakbayan Portland **APALA** Texas Chapter Appetite For Change APWU Local 380 Ashtabula, Geauga, Lake Counties Farmers Union (Ohio) Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO, Seattle Chapter Austin Tan Cerca de la Frontera AWPPW California Area Council Baltimore/DC Chapter of Pride at Work Berkeley Fellowship Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Committee Bernie PDX Bexar County Young Democrats **Beyond Toxics** Border Agricultural Workers Project Boulder Area Labor Council, CO AFL-CIO Cal YDSA California Communities Against Toxics California Trade Justice Coalition Carpenters Local 276 Casa Baltimore Limay Central Illinois PDA Central South Carpenters Regional Council

Centro Fronterizo del Obrero (dba) La Mujer Obrera Chicago Fair Trade Church Council of Greater Seattle Cleveland Jobs with Justice Coalition of Seattle Indian Americans Communications Workers of America (CWA) District 4 Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 1122 Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 1985 Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 7800 Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 7901 Community Alliance for Global Justice Community to Community Development Projects **Coulee Region Progressives** Cross Border Network for Justice and Solidarity CSEA LOCAL 807 CURE (Clean Up the River Environment) Democracy Out Loud (Indivisible) Democratic Socialists of America (Dallas) Denver Justice and Peace Committee (DJPC) **District W24 IAMAW** Earth Action. Inc. Earth Democracy Committee Alliance for Democracy Earth Ethics. Inc. EGG350.org Endangered Habitats League Environmental Justice Ministry Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church **Equity Transit** Faith Action Network Faith-Labor Committee, Portland Jobs with Justice Family Action Network Movement (FANM) Farmworker Association of Florida Florida Alliance for Retired Americans Florida Chapter - Progressive Democrats of America Food for Maine's Future For the Many Fort Collins, CO Chapter - Progressive Democrats of America Fox Valley Citizens for Peace & Justice Friends of Merrymeeting Bay GABRIELA Seattle Global Justice Committee, Portland JwJ

Greater Boston Trade Justice Greater New York Labor Religion Coalition Green Song Press Health Advocacy International Health Care For All Texas Hernando County Green Party Hike The Good Hike Housing Works Huron Valley Area Labor Federation, AFL-CIO IAM 751 **IBEW Local 840** ILWU Washington Area District Council Indiana Pride At Work Indivisible Austin Indivisible Bainbridge Island Indivisible Beaverton Indivisible Bellingham Indivisible Detroit (MI) Indivisible Eastside (WA) Indivisible Outcry Indivisible Plus Washington Indivisible Skagit Indivisible Warren County Indivisible Washington's 8th District Indivisible Whidbey Island (WA) International Coalition for Human Rights in the Philippines - Portland Chapter InterReligious Task Force on Central America Iowa Citizens for Community Improvement **IUE-CWA Local 301** Jews For Racial and Economic Justice Jobs with Justice of East Tennessee Kalikasan Solidarity Organization Kickapoo Peace Circle Knowledgepanel Labor Community Alliance of South Florida Lampasas County Democratic Party LCLAA LA Leelanau Indivisible LEPOCO Peace Center (Lehigh-Pocono Committee of Concern) Let Cuba Live Committee of Maine

Lipari Renewables, Inc. LIUNA Local 190 Local Clean Energy Alliance Long Island Pine Barrens Society Maine AFL-CIO Maine Fair Trade Campaign Make The Road, New York Maryland Chapter Progressive Democrats of America Maryland United for Peace and Justice, Inc. Metro Justice Milwaukee Fair Trade Coalition Missouri Alliance for Retired Americans, Education Fund Missouri Chapter - Progressive Democrats of America Mothers Against Greg Abbott MSEA-SEIU Local 1989 New Hampshire Conference United Church of Christ Economic Justice Mission Group New Mexico Climate Justice New Paltz Climate Action New York Communities For Change New York Metro Area Postal Workers New York Trade Justice Coalition News Guild of New York, CWA NJ State Industrial Union Council North Kitsap Indivisible NYC Friends For Clear Water NYS Alliance for Retired Americans **Occupy Bellingham** Occupy Bergen County Office & Professional Employees International Union Local 8, AFL-CIO OLÉ Olympia Indivisible **Olympic Climate Action** Oregon BlueGreen Alliance Oregon Chapter Sierra Club Oregon Physicians for Social Responsibility **Oregon Progressive Party** Our Revolution North Texas **Our Revolution Ohio** Out Now Outlaw Ink

Pacific Northwest Labor Council **Parallax** Perspectives Park Slope Food Coop - International Trade Education Squad Partners For Progress SWPA PDA Illinois PDA Nebraska Peace Action Bay Ridge Peace Action Maine Peace, Justice, Sustainability NOW Peacemakers of Schoharie County Peninsula Peace & Justice Pennsylvania Council of Churches Physicians for Social Responsibility, AZ Chapter Pierce County Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union No. 7 PODER Portland Central America Solidarity Committee (PCASC) Portland Jobs with Justice Portland Rising Pride at Work - Arizona Chapter Pride at Work - Hawai'i Pride At Work - Long Island Pride at Work - Ohio Chapter Pride at Work - Rochester Finger Lakes Chapter Pride at Work - WA South Chapter Progressive Democrats of America - Arizona Progressive Democrats of America - Tucson Progressive Democrats of Hawaii Progressives for Democracy in America Florida PSARA (Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action) Rise Up WV **Rocky Mountain Peace and Justice Center** Rural & Migrant Ministry **RWDSU LOCAL 338** San Francisco Living Wage Coalition Santa Clara Sunrise Santa Cruz Climate Action Network Seattle CISPES Seattle Fellowship of Reconciliation SEIU Healthcare 1199NW

SEIU6 Property Services NW Sequoia Forestkeeper Sierra Club - Lone Star Chapter Sierra Club - Washington State Chapter SMART Local 112 Snohomish & Island County Labor Council Snohomish County Indivisible SOAR Local 2599 SoCal 350 Climate Action Social Justice Indivisible Society of Professional Engineering Employees in Aerospace (SPEEA), IFPTE Local 2001 Solidarity Committee--Capital District South Central Federation of Labor (WI) South Seattle Climate Action Network South Texas Human Rights Center Southern Oregon Jobs with Justice Spokane Regional Labor Council Stand Indivisible AZ Stanford Democrats Steelworkers Organization of Active Retirees SOAR Students of Color in Public Policy Sunflower Alliance Sunrise PDX **TCU-IAM Teamsters Joint Council 28** Teamsters Local 391 Teamsters Local 814 Teamsters Local Union No. 117 Terraza 7 Texas Alliance for Retired Americans Austin Chapter **Texas Drought Project** Texas Fair Trade Coalition **Texas Progressive Caucus** The Center for Family Farm Development, Inc. The Living Hope Wheelchair Association The Old Anglo-Catholic Movement/IAL Thurston Climate Action Team Toledo Area Jobs with Justice & Interfaith Worker Justice Coalition Trade Justice New York Metro **Transformations CDC**

UAW Local 221 **UFCW District Union 1** UFCW Local 2013 Unitarian Universalist Action of NH United For Action United Service Workers Union United Steelworkers (USW) District 12 United Steelworkers (USW) District 13 United Steelworkers (USW) Local 10-234 United Steelworkers (USW) Local 1280 United Steelworkers (USW) Local 135L United Steelworkers (USW) Local 1774 United Steelworkers (USW) Local 183 United Steelworkers (USW) Local 248 United Steelworkers (USW) Local 3267 United Steelworkers (USW) Local 338 United Steelworkers (USW) Local 3403-Unit 25 United Steelworkers (USW) Local 5025 United Steelworkers (USW) Local 5429 United Steelworkers (USW) Local 675 United Steelworkers (USW) Local 7014 United Steelworkers (USW) Local 9-01762 **UNITEHERE Local 150 UUFHCT** Voz Workers Rights Education Project WA People's Privacy Waist Shapers Meal Preps Wallingford Indivisible Warlords Washington BlueGreen Alliance Washington Fair Trade Coalition Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council WashTech Local 37083 WE ACT for Environmental Justice WESPAC Foundation. Inc. Western Wisconsin AFL-CIO Whatcom Peace & Justice Center Whiskey Ally's WIN W.I.N. Florida Voter Messaging Coalition

Wisconsin Fair Trade Coalition Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, Fresno Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, Santa Cruz Branch Worker Justice Center of New York Workers United SEIU WV Citizen Action Group Xochipilli Chicano/Latino Men's Circle Yolpaki Co Young Democratic Socialists of America at UC Berkeley Youth Vs Apocalypse