**AMERICAN BREXIT COMMITTEE**

**P. O. BOX 27296**

**PHILADELPHIA, PA 19118**

July 1, 2019

Honorable Richard Neal, Chairman

Ways & Means Committee

U. S. House of Representatives

Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Chairman Neal:

This is a follow-up to our earlier letter of March raising questions regarding the Trade Priorities and Accountability Act. We deeply appreciate your remarks and those of Speaker Pelosi regarding the Irish peace process and the consequences of Britain’s failure to respect the obligations of its agreements.

The Conservative government still opposes the proposed EU-UK withdrawal agreement and the so-called Irish back-stop provision. Many of the Conservative MP’s despise the 1998 Belfast Treaty and are supporting a unilateral action to grant amnesty/immunity to those soldiers involved in killing civilians in N. I. That clearly contradicts the May Government 1998 White Paper on the Good Friday Agreement and successor pacts like the Stormont House Agreement.

In London recently President Trump urged a no-deal Brexit and claimed that “14 sections of the US-UK trade deal…” are already complete. Clearly the President is uninformed or does not care about the devastating effects of a no-deal Brexit on Ireland’s economy and budget. Those consequences were recently defined by Irish Finance Minister Paschal Donahoe. It will require the Government to borrow 5 billion Euros by October 31st for a fiscal year which was to have a 1.2 billion Euros surplus. Britain has already threatened Ireland’s Tanaiste Simon Coveney with post-Brexit plans to prefer Brazil beef with tariffs and quotas on Irish beef. Their economic bullying of Ireland is just beginning.

Americans must know just how businesses, consumers and taxpayers will benefit from President Trump’s new US-UK trade deal which could be submitted to Congress as soon as November if a no-deal Brexit is Britain’s option. The Administration’s priority rush for this deal is curious since America already buys far more British goods than the UK spends on US goods. As a policy and practical matter, it seems Americans would derive greater benefit and sooner if Congress were to ratify the USMCA (NAFTA) trade treaty and agree to a new EU-US trade deal. President Trump shelved a pending EU trade deal upon taking office for no apparent reason other than it was negotiated under President Obama.

Brexiteers, without any idea of cost or consequence, exalt the Brexit referendum 52-48% result as the “will of the people.” N. I. voted 56% to 44% to REMAIN in the EU but the Conservatives never speak of it. Nor is Britain talking about the 2018 report of economist Gunther Thumann, *Brexit and the Future of Ireland, Uniting Ireland and Its People in Peace and Prosperity*, which states the British taxpayer would be better off if it let N. I. re-unite with the Republic and remain in the European Union.

Desperate for any success for his train wreck tariff policies, President Trump touts the “special relationship” to push a UK-US trade deal. Why is the President so anxious that American taxpayers and consumers rescue Britain, the 5th largest economy in the world, from their Brexit folly? The facts of Brexit matter little to the Conservative Party and its leadership who wish to live in the past, ignore democratic votes and dismiss Treaty obligations with impunity. We urge Members of Congress to use the Trade Priorities and Accountability Act to affirm tangible and positive trade benefits for the American people and to hold Britain accountable for its legacy of violence in N. I. If the UK adopts a unilateral amnesty or statute of limitation law for security forces murders in N. I. that would violate a fundamental tenet of the Good Friday Agreement.

We would appreciate it if you might share with us your assessment of the proposed US-UK trade deal.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Cummings, Secretary

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