

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

August 4, 2023

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary of State  
Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Katherine Tai  
US. Trade Representative  
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative  
600 17th Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Secretary Blinken and Ambassador Tai,

We are writing to urge you to express your continued commitment to enforcing investor protections in U.S. trade agreements. Investor protections in our trade treaties are a foundational requirement for U.S. foreign direct investment worldwide. Investor protections reflect our values and priorities by ensuring serious consequences result from violating the rule of law. Any failure to enforce investor protections would embolden efforts to target U.S. investors and undermine Congress' intent when agreeing to trade agreements.

In Honduras, the Castro Administration is taking threatening actions to expropriate resources from U.S. investors in Prospera. The Department of State's Honduras "2022 Investment Climate Statements" document these threats.<sup>1</sup> In clear violation of the Dominican Republic–Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA-DR), the Castro administration repealed the framework establishing the special economic "ZEDE" zones. Zones for Employment and Economic Development (ZEDEs) catalyze economic development, attracting domestic and foreign investors who bring capital, expertise, and job opportunities.

The U.S. has international investment agreements with over 60 countries, impacting hundreds of billions in investments. The Castro Administration cannot be allowed to expropriate U.S. investors without adequate compensation. Investor protections are both moral and practical requirements of U.S. trade policy. Accordingly, rather than abandon this successful and long-settled trade policy, we urge the Biden Administration to maintain and strengthen investor protections, including those found in CAFTA-DR; and to stand with U.S. investors in defense of their rights. Just compensation is the rule when it comes to expropriation, not the exception.

Sincerely,



Rep. Warren Davidson  
Member of Congress



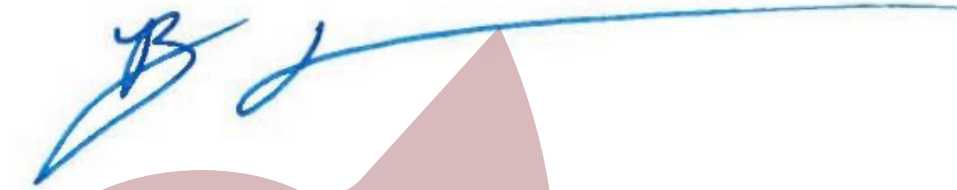
Rep. Maria Salazar  
Member of Congress



Rep. Greg Steube  
Member of Congress



Rep. Alex Mooney  
Member of Congress



Rep. Byron Donalds  
Member of Congress



Rep. Nancy Mace  
Member of Congress



Rep. Paul A. Gosar D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



Rep. Chip Roy  
Member of Congress

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.state.gov/reports/2022-investment-climate-statements/honduras/>