



Internet Association



April 10, 2019

Minister Toshimitsu Motegi
Minister in Charge of TPP and Japan-U.S. Trade Negotiations
1-6-1 Nagata-cho,
Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo
Japan 100-8914

Dear Minister Motegi,

We are writing to encourage the Government of Japan to prioritize digital trade in upcoming trade negotiations with the United States.

Japan and the United States – recognized global leaders in artificial intelligence and other areas of emerging technology – have an opportunity to reflect their shared strategic and economic priorities, and to counter rising digital protectionism, by negotiating an early and ambitious outcome on digital trade in the context of US-Japan trade negotiations. Negotiating such an outcome will help place both countries in a strong position for purposes of subsequent digital trade negotiating efforts, including at the World Trade Organization.

As Prime Minister Abe stated in January 2019 at the World Economic Forum in Davos, “For decades to come, it will be digital data driving our economy forward.” From advanced manufacturing to the Society 5.0 initiative, it is imperative to adopt a forward-leaning, proactive stance on digital trade to foster technological development and an open and competitive global digital economy.

The United States and Japan have a tremendous amount to gain by leading by example in their bilateral trade negotiations, and thereby building a stronger foundation for the future of digital trade. We urge you to seize this opportunity in US-Japan trade negotiations.

Sincerely,

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