

AMERICAN BREXIT COMMITTEE

September 21, 2017

Honorable Kevin Brady, Chairman
House Ways & Means Committee
1102 LHOB
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Chairman Brady:

The American BREXIT Committee is composed of citizens who share a concern for the effects Ireland will experience as England leaves the European Economic Union (EEU). Ireland is the only EU nation with a UK border, and economists predict the effects of BREXIT to be disastrous. In addition, the future of the 1998 Belfast Treaty, which the U. S. helped to craft to end the armed conflict, is also threatened by BREXIT proposals under consideration.

As you know, the British BREXIT referendum would require self-inflicted harm to Her Majesty's Subjects and economy as well as painful political and economic options for Ireland, its largest EU trading partner. Ironically, N. I. would also feel the negative effects of this break-up, despite a majority there voting to remain in the EU. The UK expects America's help in trade deals and military and intelligence contracts. The British hope that in securing these deals, the US will ignore British failures to comply with the 1998 Belfast Agreement. A new UK-US trade deal may prove advantageous for Americans but it should not be a 'special relationship' hand-out to the world's 5th largest economy. Nor should approval of such trade deals etc. ignore America's hopes for Ireland's prosperity and peace. That is where we come in.

Although UK talks with the EU have made little progress, British BREXIT Secretary Davies and Trade Secretary Fox have been meeting with U. S. Trade Representative Lighthizer and Secretary of State Tillerson to secure the "...great deal.." President Trump has promised British Prime Minister May. The Irish government and the European Union can best defend their respective interests. We, on the other hand, will ask that such trade deals and assistance be made transparent to you and the American public. However, if Britain's BREXIT actions inflict harm on Ireland, we further believe it is the right time to reconsider such aid. A good US-UK deal will NOT be one which rewards the UK and harms Ireland. As long as Britain continues ignoring and violating Treaty obligations such trade and assistance could be seen as rewarding rogue State behavior.

American BREXIT Committee, P. O. Box 27296, Philadelphia, PA 19118

We hope to learn your views and those of other Committee members regarding these issues. Several of our members are prepared to meet with a staff member to underscore our concerns in more detail and to explore what can be done in the event our fears are realized. Could you please advise us of a staff member to whom we might address additional material and who we might meet with in November?

Thank you for considering this request. We look forward to hearing from you. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Cummings, Secretary
On behalf of the Committee

Cc: ABC Committee members
Representative Richard E. Neal
Representative Tom Reed
Representative Brian Higgins
Representative Bill Pascarelli Jr.
Representative Joe Crowley
Representative Mike Kelly
Representative Patrick Meehan