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One Hundred Thirteenth Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Foreign Affairs

2170 Rayburn House Office Building  
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May 14, 2013

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As a long time supporter of private sector engagement between the United States and Africa as a means to spur economic growth and development, I have championed the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) - which reduces tariffs for African nations showing a commitment to good governance and economic policies – since its beginning. AGOA also established the annual U.S. - Sub-Saharan Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum, commonly known as the AGOA Forum, that convenes high-level ministers from AGOA eligible countries and Administration officials to discuss trade and investment related issues. Many Members of Congress, including myself, have participated in AGOA Forums over the years.

At a recent hearing before the Foreign Affairs Committee, Secretary of State John Kerry mentioned your intent to travel to Africa. I strongly encourage you to attend the AGOA Forum in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia as part of this proposed trip. Your participation would signal a clear commitment to strengthening business relationships between the United States and African nations. Greater trade and investment between the United States and Africa would do more than alleviate poverty – it would promote our shared prosperity. There is no better venue than the AGOA Forum to make that case.

When expressing support for the Department of Commerce’s “Doing Business in Africa” campaign last November, you rightly noted that “many American entrepreneurs and business leaders are unaware of the tremendous trade and investment prospects in sub-Saharan Africa or face challenges establishing business relationships in the region.” The vast interest garnered from

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a brief appearance by you at the AGOA forum would surely help bring attention to the continent's immense economic opportunities.

Thank you for considering my views. I look forward to working with you and others in your Administration to encourage Africa-U.S. business partnerships.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ed Royce". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

EDWARD R. ROYCE  
Chairman