

July 20, 2018  
Eric Babson  
babson@math.ucdavis.edu  
1094 Cragmont Avenue  
Berkeley CA, 94708

Dear Senator Feinstein:

I am concerned about diplomacy. This week the twin fiascos in Quebec and Singapore have made clear the need for more congressional oversight of negotiations. With complex negotiations having national import, whether around trade or weapons, there are clear advantages to politicians setting broad priorities while knowledgeable unknowns work out the details. This reduces the opportunities for grandstanding or bribery that brought about the Smoot-Hawley debacle and the need for detailed coordination between committees and parties that Representative Gingrich shut down. Putting the president in charge and using career experts to do the work seemed like a good idea until a kleptocrat was hired who is decimating and ignoring the executive branch. Maybe it is time for a more independent negotiating power along the lines of the federal reserve.

Please assure me that you will assert congressional treaty power.

I am very proud to be a US resident and a large part of that derives from our diplomatic power.

Sincerely,  
Eric Babson