

July 18, 2018  
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Dear Senator Harris:

I am concerned about diplomacy. This week the twin fiascoes in Quebec and Singapore have made clear the need for more congressional oversight of negotiations. With issues 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 a good idea until a kleptocrat took office and proceeded to decimate and ignore 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