

# NAFTA Modernization

## Key Dates Prior to Commencement of Negotiations

- The Bipartisan Congressional Trade Priorities and Accountability Act of 2015 (2015 TPA) requires that the President provide written notice to Congress at least 90 days before initiating negotiations with any country. The notice regarding modernization of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was provided to Congress on **May 18, 2017**.
- As part of the 90-day process, on **May 23, 2017**, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) published a notice in the *Federal Register* soliciting comments from the public on the NAFTA modernization. **This notice seeks comments on several topics that will help inform the direction and content of the NAFTA negotiations. Topics include:**
  - ✓ Negotiating Objectives
  - ✓ Rules of Origin
  - ✓ Investment
  - ✓ Competition-Related Matters
  - ✓ Labor
  - ✓ State-Owned Enterprises
  - ✓ Digital Trade
  - ✓ Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises
  - ✓ Market Access
  - ✓ Customs and Trade Facilitation
  - ✓ Services
  - ✓ Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures
  - ✓ Environment
  - ✓ Government Procurement
  - ✓ Intellectual Property Rights
  - ✓ Trade Remedy Issues

### Directions for submitting comments on the *Federal Register* Notice:

1. Visit [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and search for docket number USTR-2017-0006
  2. Click the “Comment Now!” button
- Written comments must be submitted no later than **Monday, June 12, 2017**.
  - A hearing will be held on **Tuesday, June 27, 2017 at 9:00 am**, in the Main Hearing Room of the U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E St. SW, Washington DC, 20436. Persons wishing to testify orally at the hearing must provide written notification of their intention by **Monday, June 12, 2017**.
  - The 2015 TPA requires the Administration to publish a detailed summary of its negotiating objectives and expected positive U.S. outcomes on USTR’s website at least 30 days prior to initiating negotiations. The earliest USTR will publish these objectives is **Monday, July 17, 2017**.
  - The 90-day period lapses on **Wednesday, August 16, 2017**. This is the earliest date that negotiations with Canada and Mexico can commence.

