

Potential USTR Confirmation Hearing Questions

- Ms. Tai, a lot of conversation has focused on China. But I'd like to turn to a region of the world that saw much less attention from the United States during the last administration and where China's influence has grown -- Central and South America. Indeed, strong economic ties between the United States and Central and South America makes sense now more than ever, not the least to counter China and promote stability and prosperity across the Americas. It also seems to me that the Biden Administration should prioritize growing trade relations in the hemisphere and build upon any progress made. What are your priorities in Central and South America?
- No doubt, a lot of U.S. trade policy will be focused on addressing China's trade abuses and restoring the leadership of the United States, and part of that response depends on strong trade relations with our allies -- especially those allies in Central and South America, where China is working hard to increase its economic influence and displace the United States. At the same time, we have heard from President Biden and several of his cabinet nominees the administration plans to focus on domestic investment in American workers and infrastructure, yet they have also signaled their intent to pursue a robust trade agenda. These policies need not be contradictory, and could in fact be advanced simultaneously, at least in respect of Central and South America. Can't the administration do both -- focus on domestic investment while also developing stronger trade relations with our allies, especially those within our hemisphere?

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