

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Fred Upton**  
**Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade and**  
**Communications and Technology**  
**Hearing on “Examining the EU Safe Harbor Decision and**  
**Impacts for Transatlantic Data Flows”**  
**November 3, 2015**

*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

Our partnership with Europe has always been marked by friendship, shared interest, and mutual benefit. From autos to ideas, an awful lot of things made in Michigan have made their way across the Atlantic. Of course, it's not just Michigan that benefits from our relationship with Europe. The exchange of goods and services between the U.S. and the EU amounts to almost 700 billion dollars; it is critical to both of our economies. Integral to this trade infrastructure is the free flow of information, and the inability to pass data freely between the two jurisdictions is a barrier to the growth of our two economies.

We must move swiftly forward toward a framework for a sustainable Safe Harbor. While I recognize that there are some who want to leverage this important relationship and focus on areas of disagreement, I would urge folks to keep in mind the countless small and medium enterprises that rely on the Safe Harbor framework. I support the work and direction of the Department of Commerce in negotiating this new framework and I encourage its speedy adoption.

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