

AMERICANS FOR FREE ★ TRADE

January 29, 2021

Dear Members of the 117th Congress,

Congratulations on becoming a Member of the 117th Congress. We appreciate your dedication to public service and your willingness to make a difference in the lives of everyday Americans.

Our companies and associations joined together to form Americans for Free Trade in 2018. Our coalition represents every part of the U.S. economy including manufacturers, farmers and agribusinesses, retailers, technology companies, service suppliers, natural gas and oil companies, importers, exporters, and other supply chain stakeholders. Collectively, we employ tens of millions of Americans, including many of your constituents, through our vast supply chains.

The 117th Congress is beginning during a period of unprecedented difficulty and uncertainty for American families and American businesses. As businesses around the country try to implement and sustain a full and successful recovery from the ongoing economic harm caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, especially during a resurgence of cases and new restrictions on business operations, they need as much certainty as possible. That certainty can be provided in a number of ways, including by collaborating with our trading partners and allies to address violations of U.S. trade law, and by negotiating trade agreements that open up markets for – rather than trigger retaliation against – American exporters and the tens of millions of workers who rely on export markets around the world.

One area that needs immediate attention relates to our tariff policy. Over the last several years, American businesses and families have been assessed more than \$85 billion¹ in additional tariffs. These tariffs have resulted in less money in the pockets of American families², a slowdown in U.S. manufacturing³, and decreased competitiveness for American businesses vis-à-vis their counterparts in Europe and Asia. Tariffs are taxes. They have created tremendous uncertainty and financial pain for American families, American workers, and American businesses.

As the 117th Congress considers bold new measures to address the ongoing public health and economic crises, we urge Members to examine closely the negative impact that tariffs have caused to American families, American workers, and American businesses over the last several years and consider a thorough study of whether they have met their stated objectives. This should

¹ CBP Trade Statistics, available at <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/trade> (last visited 12/19/2020).

² See The Budget and Economic Outlook: 2020 to 2030, Congressional Budget Office, p. 33 (“As a result, tariffs are also projected to reduce average real household income by \$1,277 (in 2019 dollars) in 2020.”).

³ See Flaaen, Aaron, and Justin Pierce, “Disentangling the Effects of the 2018-2019 Tariffs on a Globally Connected U.S. Manufacturing Sector,” Federal Reserve Board (Dec. 23, 2019).

include a request to the independent, bipartisan U.S. International Trade Commission to conduct an economic analysis regarding the impact of the tariffs in key areas, such as American jobs, manufacturing, competitiveness, innovation, and economic growth. In addition, we urge the appropriate committees of jurisdiction to examine the effectiveness of the tariffs and the section 301 product exclusion process administered by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR).

As the 117th Congress conducts these important oversight activities, we also ask that Members urge USTR to take the following immediate actions:

- Reinstatement of the section 301 product exclusion process, including a retroactive extension for product exclusions that expired during 2020 to provide economic relief and predictability for American businesses, workers, and families;
- Improve the section 301 process to ensure it is administered in a fair, transparent, and predictable manner;
- Automatically extend all section 301 product exclusions for COVID response items so that American families and businesses can get the personal protective equipment, cleaning equipment, and manufacturing inputs they need to respond to the ongoing public health emergency;
- Resolve ongoing trade disputes through targeted actions and concerted bilateral engagement that reduces trade barriers and opens markets for American exporters – not one that imposes additional burdens on American businesses, American workers, and American families through tariffs and closes markets when trading partners retaliate.

Lifting the additional tariffs is a simple, straightforward way to provide an economic boost to American families, American workers, and American businesses and to help ensure a successful economic recovery. It is also an important step to repairing relationships with U.S. trading partners and allies and restoring our standing on the world stage.

If you have any questions about the AFT coalition, please visit our website at www.americansforfreetrade.com or email us at info@americansforfreetrade.com.

Sincerely,

Accessories Council
ACT | The App Association
Agriculture Transportation Coalition (AgTC)
ALMA, International (Association of
Loudspeaker Manufacturing and Acoustics)
American Apparel & Footwear Association
(AAFA)
American Association of Exporters and
Importers (AAEI)
American Association of Port Authorities
American Bakers Association

American Bridal & Prom Industry Association (ABPIA)
American Chemistry Council
American Coatings Association, Inc. (ACA)
American Down and Feather Council
American Fly Fishing Trade Association
American Home Furnishings Alliance
American Lighting Association
American Petroleum Institute
American Pyrotechnics Association
American Rental Association
American Specialty Toy Retailing Association

American Wind Energy Association	Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America (FDRA)
Arizona Technology Council	Fragrance Creators Association
Arkansas Grocers and Retail Merchants Association	Game Manufacturers Association
Association For Creative Industries	Gemini Shippers Association
Association for PRINT Technologies	Georgia Retailers
Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)	Global Business Alliance
Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers	Global Chamber®
Auto Care Association	Global Cold Chain Alliance
Beer Institute	Greeting Card Association
BSA The Software Alliance	Halloween Industry Association
California Retailers Association	Home Fashion Products Association
Carolina Loggers Association	Home Furnishings Association
Chemical Industry Council of Delaware (CICD)	Household and Commercial Products Association
Coalition of New England Companies for Trade (CONNECT)	Idaho Retailers Association
Coalition of Services Industries (CSI)	Illinois Retail Merchants Association
Colorado Retail Council	Independent Office Products & Furniture Dealers Association (IOPFDA)
Columbia River Customs Brokers and Forwarders Assn.	Indiana Retail Council
Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA)	Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA)	International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA)
Consumer Brands Association	International Bottled Water Association (IBWA)
Consumer Technology Association	International Foodservice Distributors Association
Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA)	International Housewares Association
CropLife America	International Warehouse and Logistics Association
Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders Assn. of Washington State	International Wood Products Association
Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders of Northern California	ISSA - The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States	Jeweler's Vigilance Committee
Electronic Transactions Association	Juice Products Association (JPA)
Experiential Designers and Producers Association (EDPA)	Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association
Fashion Accessories Shippers Association (FASA)	Leather and Hide Council of America
Fashion Jewelry & Accessories Trade Association	Licensing Industry Merchandisers' Association
Flexible Packaging Association	Los Angeles Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Assn.
Florida Ports Council	Louisiana Retailers Association
Florida Retail Federation	Maine Grocers & Food Producers Association
	Maine Lobster Dealers' Association
	Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay
	Maryland Retailers Association
	Methanol Institute
	Michigan Chemistry Council
	Michigan Retailers Association
	Minnesota Retailers Association
	Missouri Retailers Association
	Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association

Motorcycle Industry Council	Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council
NAPIM (National Association of Printing Ink Manufacturers)	Petroleum Equipment & Services Association
National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS)	Plumbing Manufacturers International
National Association of Chemical Distributors (NACD)	Power Tool Institute (PTI)
National Association of Foreign-Trade Zones (NAFTZ)	Promotional Products Association International
National Association of Home Builders	Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association
National Association of Music Merchants	Retail Association of Maine
National Association of Printing Ink Manufacturers	Retail Council of New York State
National Association of Trailer Manufacturers (NATM)	Retail Industry Leaders Association
National Confectioners Association	Retailers Association of Massachusetts
National Council of Chain Restaurants	RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment)
National Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association of America	RV Industry Association
National Fisheries Institute	San Diego Customs Brokers and Forwarders Assn.
National Foreign Trade Council	SEMI
National Grocers Association	Snowsports Industries America
National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association	Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates
National Marine Manufacturers Association	Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA)
National Restaurant Association	South Dakota Retailers Association
National Retail Federation	Specialty Equipment Market Association
National Ski & Snowboard Retailers Association	Specialty Vehicle Institute of America
National Sporting Goods Association	Sports & Fitness Industry Association
Natural Products Association	TechNet
New Jersey Retail Merchants Association	Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)
North American Association of Uniform Manufacturers and Distributors (NAUMD)	Texas Retailers Association
North Carolina Retail Merchants Association	Texas Water Infrastructure Network
Ohio Council of Retail Merchants	The Airforwarders Association
Outdoor Industry Association	The Fertilizer Institute
Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Assns. Inc.	The Hardwood Federation
Pennsylvania Retailers' Association	The Toy Association
PeopleforBikes	The Vinyl Institute
Personal Care Products Council	Travel Goods Association
	Truck & Engine Manufacturers Association (EMA)
	United States Council for International Business
	United States Fashion Industry Association
	US Global Value Chain Coalition
	US-China Business Council
	Virginia Retail Merchants Association
	Virginia-DC District Export Council (VA-DC DEC)
	Washington Retail Association
	Window and Door Manufacturers Association
	World Pet Association, Inc. (WPA)