

AMERICANS FOR FREE ★ TRADE

November 5, 2020

The Honorable Robert E. Lighthizer
United States Trade Representative
600 Seventeenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

On behalf of the Americans for Free Trade coalition, we write to urge the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) to move expeditiously to extend exclusions for products covered by the Section 301 China tariffs before they expire on December 31, 2020. Doing so would provide certainty for American businesses already struggling with the economic fallout from COVID-19 and avoid doing additional harm to the U.S. economy.

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, powersports manufacturers, importers, exporters, and other supply chain stakeholders. Collectively, we support tens of millions of American jobs through our vast supply chains.

While we continue to advocate for the full elimination of the Section 301 tariffs, we recognize the important role that the product exclusion process has played in alleviating the burden of additional tariffs for some American businesses. So long as Section 301 tariffs remain in place, having a predictable, fair, and transparent product exclusion process is vital to creating a modicum of certainty for American businesses. That certainty, however, is in jeopardy as all remaining product exclusions are set to expire at the end of this year. As American businesses continue to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, they should not have to face the uncertainty of tax increases on January 1 because of a reimposition of tariffs on previously excluded products. It remains unclear whether USTR intends to offer additional product exclusion extension opportunities for the remaining exclusions. We believe it is crucial for USTR to do so.

More specifically, we urge USTR to automatically extend existing product exclusions for at least six months. This move would be welcome news to the American businesses, workers, consumers, and farmers who have paid nearly \$60 billion in taxes to the federal government in the form of tariffs since the trade war with China began. It would also provide certainty for American businesses trying to recover from the economic harm caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Alternatively, we urge USTR to issue a Federal Register Notice announcing a new public comment period to extend expiring exclusions as soon as possible. This should also include an opportunity to submit comments for products covered by exclusions that were not extended by USTR earlier this year.

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Extending product exclusions is a straightforward and efficient way for the administration to provide certainty and relief to American businesses during this difficult economic time. Until the Section 301 tariffs are fully eliminated, we urge USTR to maintain a robust, predictable, and transparent product exclusion process.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Accessories Council	Beer Institute
ACT The App Association	BSA The Software Alliance
Agriculture Transportation Coalition (AgTC)	California Retailers Association
ALMA, International (Association of Loudspeaker Manufacturing and Acoustics)	Can Manufacturers Institute
American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)	Carolina Loggers Association
American Association of Exporters and Importers (AAEI)	Chemical Industry Council of Delaware (CICD)
American Association of Port Authorities	Coalition of New England Companies for Trade (CONNECT)
American Bakers Association	Coalition of Services Industries (CSI)
American Bridal & Prom Industry Association (ABPIA)	Colorado Retail Council
American Chemistry Council	Columbia River Customs Brokers and Forwarders Assn.
American Coatings Association, Inc. (ACA)	Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA)
American Down and Feather Council	Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA)
American Fly Fishing Trade Association	Consumer Brands Association
American Home Furnishings Alliance	Consumer Technology Association
American Lighting Association	Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA)
American Petroleum Institute	CropLife America
American Pyrotechnics Association	Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders Assn. of Washington State
American Rental Association	Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders of Northern California
American Specialty Toy Retailing Association	Distilled Spirits Council of the United States
American Wind Energy Association	Electronic Transactions Association
Arizona Technology Council	Fashion Accessories Shippers Association (FASA)
Arkansas Grocers and Retail Merchants Association	Fashion Jewelry & Accessories Trade Association
Association For Creative Industries	Flexible Packaging Association
Association for PRINT Technologies	Florida Ports Council
Association of American Publishers	Florida Retail Federation
Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)	Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America (FDRA)
Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers	Fragrance Creators Association
Auto Care Association	Game Manufacturers Association
	Gemini Shippers Association
	Georgia Retailers

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Global Chamber®
Global Cold Chain Alliance
Greeting Card Association
Halloween Industry Association
Home Fashion Products Association
Home Furnishings Association
Household and Commercial Products Association
Idaho Retailers Association
Illinois Retail Merchants Association
Independent Office Products & Furniture Dealers Association (IOPFDA)
Indiana Retail Council
Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA)
International Bottled Water Association (IBWA)
International Foodservice Distributors Association
International Housewares Association
International Warehouse and Logistics Association
International Wood Products Association
ISSA - The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association
Jeweler's Vigilance Committee
Juice Products Association (JPA)
Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association
Leather and Hide Council of America
Licensing Industry Merchandisers' Association
Los Angeles Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Assn.
Louisiana Retailers Association
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
NAPIM (National Association of Printing Ink Manufacturers)
National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS)
National Association of Chemical Distributors (NACD)
National Association of Foreign-Trade Zones (NAFTZ)
National Association of Home Builders
National Association of Music Merchants
National Association of Trailer Manufacturers (NATM)
National Confectioners Association
National Council of Chain Restaurants
National Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association of America
National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)
National Fisheries Institute
National Foreign Trade Council
National Grocers Association
National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association
National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Restaurant Association
National Retail Federation
National Ski & Snowboard Retailers Association
National Sporting Goods Association
Natural Products Association
New Jersey Retail Merchants Association
North American Association of Uniform Manufacturers and Distributors (NAUMD)
North Carolina Retail Merchants Association
Ohio Council of Retail Merchants
Outdoor Industry Association
Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Assns. Inc.
Pennsylvania Retailers' Association
PeopleforBikes
Personal Care Products Council
Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council
Petroleum Equipment & Services Association
Plumbing Manufacturers International
Power Tool Institute (PTI)
Promotional Products Association International
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association
Retail Association of Maine

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Retail Council of New York State
Retail Industry Leaders Association
Retailers Association of Massachusetts
RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment)
San Diego Customs Brokers and Forwarders Assn.
SEMI
Snowsports Industries America
Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates
Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA)
South Dakota Retailers Association
Specialty Equipment Market Association
Specialty Vehicle Institute of America
Sports & Fitness Industry Association
TechNet
Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)

Texas Retailers Association
Texas Water Infrastructure Network
The Airforwarders Association
The Fertilizer Institute
The Hardwood Federation
The Toy Association
The Vinyl Institute
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)

CC: Secretary Steven Mnuchin, U.S. Department of Treasury
Secretary Wilbur Ross, U.S. Department of Commerce
Secretary Sonny Perdue, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Director Larry Kudlow, National Economic Council of the United States
Members of Congress