January 9, 2019

Dear [Senator][Representative]:

Congratulations on becoming a Member of the 116th Congress. We appreciate your dedication to public service and your willingness to make the many sacrifices entailed by Federal service.

Our companies and associations joined together to form Americans for Free Trade (www.americansforfreetrade.com), a growing coalition comprised of manufacturers, farmers and agribusinesses, retailers, technology companies, service providers, natural gas and oil companies, importers and exporters, and other supply chain stakeholders who are united in their concern about the negative impacts that indiscriminate tariffs will continue to have on U.S. businesses, workers and consumers.

The 116th Congress is beginning during a period of unprecedented economic growth and job creation, yet continued prosperity is not a foregone conclusion. We share the broadly-held concern about the impact to the U.S. economy of the Section 301 tariffs on imports from China, Section 232 tariffs on steel and aluminum imports and corresponding retaliation against U.S. exports. We agree that China must be held to account for its violations of our trade laws and the international trade obligations all nations share. However, imposition of a tariff of up to 25 percent on $250 billion worth of China products – and the threat to impose a similar duty on $267 billion more of such products – will not remedy the situation. We continue to see stories on a daily basis about companies, both large and small, who are being harmed by these tariffs. Similarly, the tariffs on imported steel and aluminum, and the resulting retaliatory tariffs on U.S. exports are further harming U.S. companies of all sizes.

Over decades, Americans have built global supply chains that reflect the U.S. economy’s strengths and those of its trading partners. These supply chains have made the U.S. economy even more dependent upon relationships with key economic and strategic allies than ever before. Supply chains are extremely complex and they cannot be shifted overnight. The disruption caused by the use of tariffs seeks to harm these key relationships and damage the U.S. economy, which still remains extremely strong.

AFT has joined with Farmers for Free Trade to support the “Tariffs Hurt the Heartland” campaign (www.tariffshurt.com) to highlight and show the negative impacts of the tariffs to businesses large and small, workers and families.

We hope you will lend your support to AFT’s efforts across the country and participate in in-district events with affected stakeholders. We also strongly encourage Congress to exercise its
oversight role on trade policy matters to prevent further harm to U.S. workers, consumers, and families that will result from both the existing and proposed tariffs.

We invite you to learn more about the negative impact of tariffs in your state by visiting www.tariffshurt.com/state-impact-reports. If you have questions about the AFT coalition, please visit www.americansforfreetrade.com or contact info@americansforfreetrade.com.

Sincerely,

Accessories Council
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 Chemistry Council
American Coatings Association, Inc. (ACA)
American Down and Feather Council
American Home Furnishings Alliance
American Lighting Association
American Petroleum Institute
American Pyrotechnics Association
American Rental Association
American Specialty Toy Retailing Association
Arizona Technology Council
Arkansas Grocers and Retail Merchants Association
Association For Creative Industries
Association for PRINT Technologies
Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)
Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers
Auto Care Association
BSA | The Software Alliance
Business & Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association (BIFMA)
California Retailers Association
Coalition of New England Companies for Trade (CONECT)
Coalition of Services Industries (CSI)
Colorado Retail Council
Columbia River Customs Brokers and Forwarders Assn.
Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA)
Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA)
Consumer Technology Association
Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA)
CropLife America
Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders Assn. of Washington State
Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders of Northern California
Distilled Spirits Council of the United States
Electronic Transactions Association
Fashion Accessories Shippers Association (FASA)
Fashion Jewelry & Accessories Trade Association
Flexible Packaging Association
Florida Ports Council
Florida Retail Federation
Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America (FDRA)
Fragrance Creators Association
Gemini Shippers Association
Georgia Retailers
Global Chamber®
Global Cold Chain Alliance
Grocery Manufacturers 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 Foodservice Distributors Association
International Housewares Association
International Warehouse and Logistics Association
International Wood Products Association
Internet Association
Juice Products Association (JPA)
Juvenile Products 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
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 Equipment 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
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
Organization for International Investment
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)
Precious Metals Association of North America (PMANA)
Promotional Products Association International
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association
Retail Association of Maine
Retail Council of New York State
Retail Industry Leaders Association
Retailers Association of Massachusetts
RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment)
RV Industry Association
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
Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)
Texas Retailers Association
Texas Water Infrastructure Network
The Airforwarders Association
The Fertilizer Institute                       United States Fashion Industry Association
The Hardwood Federation                      US Global Value Chain Coalition
The Toy Association                          US-China Business Council
The Vinyl Institute                          Virginia Retail Merchants Association
Travel Goods Association                     Virginia-DC District Export Council (VA-DC DEC)
Truck & Engine Manufacturers Association     Washington Retail Association
(EMA)                                       Window and Door Manufacturers Association
U.S. Hide, Skin and Leather Association      World Pet Association, Inc. (WPA)
United States Council for International Business