

AMERICANS FOR FREE ★ TRADE

September 12, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

Like you, we have heard the urgent concerns from businesses across the country about the negative impact of tariffs on American economic growth, jobs, and prosperity. Today, in response to these concerns, we are writing to officially announce the formation of Americans for Free Trade. We are a growing coalition representing U.S. manufacturers, farmers and agribusinesses, retailers, technology companies, service suppliers, natural gas and oil companies, importers, exporters, and other supply chain stakeholders, who are united in their concern about the negative impacts that the new tariffs are and will continue to have on U.S. businesses, workers and consumers.

While we agree that there are issues that need to be addressed with key trading partners, tariffs are the wrong approach to bring about meaningful change. Every day, companies large and small are sharing their stories of the harm the tariffs and ensuing retaliation are causing across all sectors of the American economy.

Americans for Free Trade will be joining with Farmers for Free Trade to support the “Tariffs Hurt the Heartland” campaign, which has effectively shown the growing negative impact of tariffs on the farming and agriculture economy. Americans for Free Trade will add to this effort by showing the impact to the other sectors of the economy represented by our coalition. Working together, our campaign will amplify the voices of the American families, workers, farmers and businesses who are being hurt by these tariffs.

Our effort will begin where the tariffs have already caused great harm: at the grassroots level in the American heartland. Beginning with the September Congressional recess and continuing in the Fall, we will be holding events that bring together those Americans whose livelihoods have been impacted by tariffs for public events that highlight the need to de-escalate the trade war.

We hope you will lend your support to our 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 new tariffs – both those already being implemented and future tariffs that have been proposed.

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

Sincerely,

1. Agriculture Transportation Coalition (AgTC)
2. American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)
3. American Association of Exporters and Importers (AAEI)
4. American Association of Port Authorities
5. American Home Furnishings Alliance
6. American Lighting Association
7. American Petroleum Institute
8. American Pyrotechnics Association
9. American Rental Association
10. Arkansas Grocers and Retail Merchants Association
11. Association For Creative Industries
12. Association for Print Technologies
13. Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)
14. Business & Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association (BIFMA)
15. Coalition of New England Companies for Trade (CONNECT)
16. Coalition of Service Industries (CSI)
17. Colorado Retail Council
18. Columbia River Customs Brokers and Forwarders Assn.
19. Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA)
20. Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA)
21. Consumer Technology Association
22. Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA)
23. CropLife America
24. Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders Assn. of Washington State
25. Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders of Northern California
26. Distilled Spirits Council of the United States
27. Electronic Transactions Association
28. Fashion Accessories Shippers Association (FASA)
29. Fashion Jewelry & Accessories Trade Association (FJATA)
30. Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America (FDRA)
31. Fragrance Creators Association
32. Gemini Shippers Association
33. Global Cold Chain Alliance
34. Grocery Manufacturers Association
35. Halloween Industry Association

36. Home Furnishings Association
37. Household and Commercial Products Association
38. Indiana Retail Council
39. Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
40. International Housewares Association
41. International Wood Products Association
42. Internet Association
43. Juice Products Association (JPA)
44. Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association
45. Los Angeles Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Assn.
46. Maine Lobster Dealers' Association
47. Methanol Institute
48. Minnesota Retailers Association
49. Missouri Retailers Association
50. National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS)
51. National Association of Chemical Distributors (NACD)
52. National Association of Foreign-Trade Zones
53. National Association of Music Merchants
54. National Confectioners Association
55. National Council of Chain Restaurants
56. National Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association of America
57. National Fisheries Institute
58. National Foreign Trade Council
59. National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association
60. National Marine Manufacturers Association
61. National Restaurant Association
62. National Retail Federation (NRF)
63. Natural Products Association
64. Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Assns. Inc.
65. Personal Care Products Council
66. Petroleum Equipment & Services Association
67. Plumbing Manufacturers International
68. Promotional Products Association International
69. Retail Association of Maine
70. Retail Industry Leaders Association
71. RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment)
72. San Diego Customs Brokers and Forwarders Assn.
73. Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA)
74. Specialty Equipment Market Association
75. Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)
76. Texas Retailers Association
77. The Fertilizer Institute
78. The Hardwood Federation
79. The Toy Association
80. Travel Goods Association (TGA)

81. Truck & Engine Manufacturers Association
82. United States Council for International Business
83. United States Fashion Industry Association
84. US-China Business Council
85. Window and Door Manufacturers Association
86. World Pet Association, Inc. (WPA)

cc: Members, U.S. House of Representatives