

AMERICANS FOR FREE ★ TRADE

August 28, 2019

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

On behalf of the Americans for Free Trade Coalition, we are writing with an urgent request that you postpone all tariff rate increases on Chinese goods that are scheduled to take effect this year. These tariff rate increases – some starting as early as Sunday – come at the worst possible time, right in the middle of the busy holiday shipping period. Action is needed by you to protect American businesses, workers and consumers this holiday season.

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 support tens of millions of American jobs through our vast supply chains.

In remarks earlier this month, you recognized that delaying some tariffs would avoid hurting American consumers over the holidays. Unfortunately, a large portion of holiday merchandise will still be hit by September and October tariff increases at an even higher rate than was initially anticipated. With some products facing tariffs as high as 30 percent, many businesses will have no choice but to pass along those costs to consumers. Price increases will likely hit shoppers just as they are making their holiday purchases.

Furthermore, because many of our industrial inputs are still sourced in China, these new tariffs will act as a tax on U.S. manufacturers and U.S. farmers, whose costs will now increase. And because these tariffs were announced with little warning, it is impossible for U.S. importers to share the burden with supply chain partners in China or shift their production to other countries. The full adverse impact of these tariff increases will be felt entirely in the United States and could represent one of the largest tax increases in American history.

We understand your frustration with China and are opposed to the tariffs the Chinese government has imposed as well. But subjecting U.S. companies, the workers they employ, and the consumers they serve to new and unprecedented taxes takes us further away from the deal you are working to craft. Ordering companies to leave China, the world's second largest economy, is not a solution and is unrealistic. Although companies are taking steps to diversify

their supply chains, developing overseas markets is critical to reaching the 95 percent of consumers who live outside the U.S. and in return expanding opportunities for American workers and consumers.

U.S. consumers are driving the growth of the U.S. economy. Let's ensure consumer confidence remains high and economic prosperity continues for the American families we serve and the American workers we employ every day. A tariff delay is the gift you can give American families this holiday season.

Please protect the holiday season and delay these tariffs.

Sincerely,

Accessories Council	Beer Institute
Agriculture Transportation Coalition (AgTC)	BSA The Software Alliance
ALMA, International (Association of Loudspeaker Manufacturing and Acoustics)	California Retailers Association
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 Technology Association
American Home Furnishings Alliance	Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA)
American Lighting Association	CropLife America
American Petroleum Institute	Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders Assn. of Washington State
American Bridal & Prom Industry Association (ABPIA)	Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders of Northern California
American Pyrotechnics Association	Distilled Spirits Council of the United States
American Rental Association	Electronic Transactions Association
American Specialty Toy Retailing Association	Fashion Accessories Shippers Association (FASA)
American Wind Energy Association	Fashion Jewelry & Accessories Trade Association
Arizona Technology Council	Flexible Packaging Association
Arkansas Grocers and Retail Merchants Association	Florida Ports Council
Association For Creative Industries	Florida Retail Federation
Association for PRINT Technologies	Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America (FDRA)
Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)	Fragrance Creators Association
Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers	Game Manufacturers Association
Auto Care Association	Gemini Shippers Association
	Georgia Retailers
	Global Chamber®

Global Cold Chain Alliance
 Greeting Card Association
 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
 ISSA - The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association
 Juice Products Association (JPA)
 Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association
 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
 Minnesota Retailers Association
 Missouri Retailers 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 Printing Ink Manufacturers
 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)
 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.	The Hardwood Federation
SEMI	The Toy Association
Snowsports Industries America	The Vinyl Institute
Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates	Travel Goods Association
Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA)	Truck & Engine Manufacturers Association (EMA)
Specialty Equipment Market Association	U.S. Hide, Skin and Leather Association
Specialty Vehicle Institute of America	United States Council for International Business
Sports & Fitness Industry Association	United States Fashion Industry Association
TechNet	US Global Value Chain Coalition
Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)	US-China Business Council
Texas Retailers Association	Virginia Retail Merchants Association
Texas Water Infrastructure Network	Virginia-DC District Export Council (VA-DC DEC)
The Airforwarders Association	Washington Retail Association
The Fertilizer Institute	Window and Door Manufacturers Association
	World Pet Association, Inc. (WPA)

CC: Ambassador Robert Lighthizer, United States Trade Representative
Secretary Steven Mnuchin, Department of the Treasury
Secretary Wilbur Ross, Department of Commerce
Secretary Sonny Perdue, Department of Agriculture
Acting Administrator Chris Pilkerton, Small Business Administration
Director Larry Kudlow, National Economic Council