

AMERICANS FOR FREE ★ TRADE

July 28, 2020

The Honorable Jackie Walorski
419 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Collin Peterson
2204 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Walorski and Representative Peterson,

On behalf of Americans for Free Trade, we are writing to thank you for your leadership and express our strong support for H.R. 7665, which directs the United States Trade Representative to extend current product exclusions from the Section 301 China tariffs for at least one year. We fully believe that H.R. 7665 is needed to provide certainty for companies who have been granted exclusions and transparency to the current exclusion process.

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.

As businesses around the country try to recover from the economic harm caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, they need as much certainty as possible to ensure a full and successful recovery. The exclusion process as implemented by USTR should not stand as a barrier to a businesses' ability to recover. Businesses often have to wait months – and some have waited up to a year – to find out from USTR whether they have been granted an exclusion. Often that news comes at the last minute, with the exclusion expiring shortly after they receive it. This forces businesses to expend resources reapplying for the same exclusion right away.

We have also heard from many businesses about the lack of transparency around the process, for example how or why one business is granted a product exclusion, but another is denied for the same product. In many instances, companies who have been denied an exclusion – even in instances where there was no industry objection – have not been provided full details as to why their exclusion was denied. This information would help businesses better understand the type of information USTR is looking for in future exclusion requests, as well as understand whether USTR is administering the process in a fair and transparent manner.

We recently submitted comments for the record for the Ways & Means Committee hearing with Ambassador Lighthizer on the 2020 Trade Policy Agenda. In those comments, we called upon the Committee to increase its oversight of the exclusion process and insist that USTR administer the process in a fair, transparent, and efficient manner to ensure that it provides meaningful relief for those bearing the brunt of these harmful tariffs. We also noted concerns with Ambassador Lighthizer's comments that future extensions to current exclusions would only be granted through this calendar year. We believe the statements demonstrate a fundamental lack of understanding of the complex business decisions that determine where global supply chains

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are developed and whether they can or should be moved. The comments also showed little regard for the economic uncertainty faced by American businesses because of the COVID-19 outbreak. That is why your legislation, which will provide much-needed certainty, is so critically important.

We thank you for your ongoing leadership regarding the impact of tariffs on U.S. businesses throughout the economy. We encourage quick passage of H.R. 7665.

Sincerely,

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

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Halloween Industry Association
Hobby Manufacturers 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 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 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 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
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

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Snowsports Industries America	The Hardwood Federation
Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates	The Toy Association
Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA)	Travel Goods Association
South Dakota Retailers Association	Truck & Engine Manufacturers Association (EMA)
Specialty Equipment Market Association	United States Council for International Business
Specialty Vehicle Institute of America	United States Fashion Industry Association
Sports & Fitness Industry Association	US Global Value Chain Coalition
TechNet	US-China Business Council
Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)	Virginia Retail Merchants Association
Texas Retailers Association	Virginia-DC District Export Council (VA-DC DEC)
Texas Water Infrastructure Network	Washington Retail Association
The Airforwarders Association	Window and Door Manufacturers Association
The Fertilizer Institute	World Pet Association, Inc. (WPA)