

AMERICANS FOR FREE★TRADE

November 13, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden:

At the upcoming Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders Meeting on November 16-17 in San Francisco, we understand you will meet with President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China. We believe this presents a great opportunity to begin the discussions of a roadmap to a de-escalation of the tariffs and a rollback of China's retaliatory tariffs as well as a commitment by President Xi that China will cease its harmful and predatory forced technology transfer and intellectual property theft practices.

Our companies and associations joined together to form Americans for Free Trade in 2018. Our coalition represents every part of the U.S. economy including manufacturers, farmers and agribusinesses, retailers, technology companies, powersports, service suppliers, natural gas and oil companies, renewable energy companies, importers, exporters, and other supply chain stakeholders. Collectively, we employ tens of millions of Americans through our vast supply chains.

In the last five years, American importers, including members of our coalition, have paid over [\\$196 billion](#) in Section 301 tariffs to the U.S. Department of Treasury on inputs to production and finished goods from China. These taxes continue to create tremendous uncertainty, increase the cost of doing business in the United States, and place a financial burden on American businesses – negatively impacting their ability to invest in their companies, hire more American workers, and remain globally competitive. For many companies, the tariffs remain a primary impediment to building or expanding manufacturing facilities and to manufacturing innovative and sustainable products in the United States. The tariffs continue to undermine the collective U.S. ability to constrain and reduce inflation. China's retaliatory tariffs are still impacting U.S. exporters, especially agriculture exports. Many have lost market share in China and have not been able to make that up in new markets.

As we continue to deal with economic headwinds, we believe the time has come for the United States to chart a new path in addressing China's unfair trade practices – one that does not raise costs for American businesses, workers, and consumers - and bolsters U.S. competitiveness. The Section 301 tariffs have been in place for more than five years and have not met their stated

objectives. Your bilateral meeting with President Xi on the margins of the APEC meetings presents a great opportunity to achieve reciprocal de-escalation, as well as verification mechanisms to ensure China honors its commitments to stop technology transfers and intellectual property thefts. With verification, the United States could progressively reduce the Section 301 tariff rates over time and commensurate with China's progress in meeting its commitments. If there is evidence of continued forced technology transfers and intellectual property theft practices in China, the administration could narrowly tailor tools to address them. Pursuing a diplomatic resolution to the tariffs while considering actions other than tariffs could reset the U.S. approach to addressing China's unfair trade practices in a manner that does not disproportionately harm American businesses, workers, and consumers.

As your administration continues to seek to resolve outstanding trade disputes with other key trading partners, it is time to find a similar path forward with one of the U.S.' largest trading partners. An easing of the Section 301 tariffs would provide a boost for the U.S. economy and U.S. manufacturing and create some stability in the U.S.-China relationship.

We look forward to continuing to work with your administration on these critical issues. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

ACT | The App Association
Agriculture Transportation Coalition (AgTC)
Alliance for Chemical Distribution (ACD)
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 Bridal & Prom Industry Association
(ABPIA)
American Clean Power Association
American Down and Feather Council
American Fly Fishing Trade Association
American Home Furnishings Alliance
American Lighting Association
American Petroleum Institute
American Pyrotechnics Association
American Rental Association
American Seed Trade Association
American Specialty Toy Retailing Association
American Trucking Association
Arizona Technology Council

Arkansas Grocers and Retail Merchants Association
Association For Creative Industries
Association for PRINT Technologies
Association of American Publishers
Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)
Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers
Auto Care Association
Beer Institute
Building Service Contractors Association International
(BSCAI)
Business Alliance for Customs Modernization
California Retailers Association
Can Manufacturers Institute
Chemical Industry Council of Delaware (CICD)
Coalition of New England Companies for Trade
(CONNECT)
Colorado Retail Council
Columbia River Customs Brokers and Forwarders
Assn.
Computer & Communications Industry Association
(CCIA)
Consumer Brands Association
Consumer Technology Association
Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA)
CropLife America

Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders Assn. of Washington State	ISSA - The Worldwide Cleaning Industry Association
Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders of Northern California	Jeweler's Vigilance Committee
Electronic Transactions Association	Juice Products Association (JPA)
Energy Workforce & Technology Council	Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association
Experiential Designers and Producers Association	Leather and Hide Council of America
Exhibitions & Conferences Alliance	Licensing Industry Merchandisers' Association
Fashion Accessories Shippers Association (FASA)	Los Angeles Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Assn.
Fashion Jewelry & Accessories Trade Association	Louisiana Retailers Association
Flexible Packaging Association	Maine Grocers & Food Producers Association
Florida Ports Council	Maine Lobster Dealers' Association
Florida Retail Federation	Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay
Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America (FDRA)	Maryland Retailers Association
Fragrance Creators Association	MEMA, The Vehicle Suppliers Association
Game Manufacturers Association	Michigan Chemistry Council
Gemini Shippers Association	Michigan Retailers Association
Georgia Retailers	Minnesota Retailers Association
Global Business Alliance	Missouri Retailers Association
Global Chamber®	Motorcycle Industry Council
Global Cold Chain Alliance	NAPIM (National Association of Printing Ink Manufacturers)
Greeting Card Association	National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS)
Halloween & Costume Association (HCA)	National Association of Foreign-Trade Zones (NAFTZ)
Home Fashion Products Association	National Association of Home Builders
Home Furnishings Association	National Association of Music Merchants
Household and Commercial Products Association	National Association of Trailer Manufacturers (NATM)
Housing Affordability Coalition	National Confectioners Association
Idaho Retailers Association	National Council of Chain Restaurants
Illinois Retail Merchants Association	National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)
Independent Office Products & Furniture Dealers Association (IOPFDA)	National Fisheries Institute
Indiana Retail Council	National Foreign Trade Council
Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)	National Grocers Association
International Bottled Water Association (IBWA)	National Industrial Transportation League (NITL)
International Foodservice Distributors Association	National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association
International Housewares Association	National Marine Manufacturers Association
International Warehouse and Logistics Association	National Restaurant Association
International Wood Products Association	National Retail Federation
	National Ski & Snowboard Retailers Association
	National Sporting Goods Association
	Natural Products Association
	National Wooden Pallet and Container Association
	New Jersey Retail Merchants Association
	North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers (NAFEM)

North American Association of Uniform Manufacturers and Distributors (NAUMD)	Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA)
North Carolina Retail Merchants Association	South Dakota Retailers Association
Ohio Council of Retail Merchants	Specialty Equipment Market Association
Outdoor Industry Association	Specialty Vehicle Institute of America
Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Assns. Inc.	Sports & Fitness Industry Association
Pennsylvania Retailers' Association	TechNet
PeopleforBikes	Technology Trade Regulation Alliance (TTRA)
Personal Care Products Council	Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)
Pet Food Institute	Texas Retailers Association
Pet Advocacy Network	Texas Water Infrastructure Network
Plumbing Manufacturers International	The Airforwarders Association
Power Tool Institute (PTI)	The Fertilizer Institute
PRINTING United Alliance	The Hardwood Federation
Promotional Products Association International	The Vinyl Institute
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association	Toy Association
Retail Association of Maine	Travel Goods Association
Retail Council of New York State	Truck & Engine Manufacturers Association (EMA)
Retail Industry Leaders Association	United States Council for International Business
Retailers Association of Massachusetts	United States Fashion Industry Association
RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment)	US Global Value Chain Coalition
RV Industry Association	US-China Business Council
San Diego Customs Brokers and Forwarders Assn.	Virginia Association of Chain Drug Stores
Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA)	Virginia Retail Federation
Snowsports Industries America	Virginia-DC District Export Council (VA-DC DEC)
Society of Chemical Manufacturers & Affiliates	Washington Retail Association
	Water Quality Association
	Window and Door Manufacturers Association
	World Pet Association, Inc. (WPA)