

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	Arkansas Grocers and Retail Merchants Association
Agriculture Transportation Coalition (AgTC)	Association For Creative Industries
Alliance for Chemical Distribution (ACD)	Association for PRINT Technologies
ALMA, International (Association of Loudspeaker Manufacturing and Acoustics)	Association of American Publishers
American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)	Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)
American Association of Exporters and Importers (AAEI)	Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers
American Association of Port Authorities	Auto Care Association
American Bakers Association	Beer Institute
American Bridal & Prom Industry Association (ABPIA)	Building Service Contractors Association International (BSCAI)
American Clean Power Association	Business Alliance for Customs Modernization
American Down and Feather Council	California Retailers Association
American Fly Fishing Trade Association	Can Manufacturers Institute
American Home Furnishings Alliance	Chemical Industry Council of Delaware (CICD)
American Lighting Association	Coalition of New England Companies for Trade (CONNECT)
American Petroleum Institute	Colorado Retail Council
American Pyrotechnics Association	Columbia River Customs Brokers and Forwarders Assn.
American Rental Association	Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA)
American Seed Trade Association	Consumer Brands Association
American Specialty Toy Retailing Association	Consumer Technology Association
American Trucking Association	Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA)
Arizona Technology Council	CropLife America

Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders Assn. of Washington State
 Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders of Northern California
 Electronic Transactions Association
 Energy Workforce & Technology Council
 Experiential Designers and Producers Association
 Exhibitions & Conferences Alliance
 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
 Game Manufacturers Association
 Gemini Shippers Association
 Georgia Retailers
 Global Business Alliance
 Global Chamber®
 Global Cold Chain Alliance
 Greeting Card Association
 Halloween & Costume Association (HCA)
 Home Fashion Products Association
 Home Furnishings Association
 Household and Commercial Products Association
 Housing Affordability Coalition
 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
 MEMA, The Vehicle Suppliers Association
 Michigan Chemistry Council
 Michigan Retailers Association
 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 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 Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)
 National Fisheries Institute
 National Foreign Trade Council
 National Grocers Association
 National Industrial Transportation League (NITL)
 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
 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)
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 Food Institute
Pet Advocacy Network
Plumbing Manufacturers International
Power Tool Institute (PTI)
PRINTING United Alliance
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.
Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA)
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
TechNet
Technology Trade Regulation Alliance (TTRA)
Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)
Texas Retailers Association
Texas Water Infrastructure Network
The Airforwarders Association
The Fertilizer Institute
The Hardwood Federation
The Vinyl Institute
Toy Association
Travel Goods Association
Truck & Engine Manufacturers Association (EMA)
United States Council for International Business
United States Fashion Industry Association
US Global Value Chain Coalition
US-China Business Council
Virginia Association of Chain Drug Stores
Virginia Retail Federation
Virginia-DC District Export Council (VA-DC DEC)
Washington Retail Association
Water Quality Association
Window and Door Manufacturers Association
World Pet Association, Inc. (WPA)