

AMERICANS FOR FREE ★ TRADE

July 27, 2023

The Honorable Katherine Tai
United States Trade Representative
600 Seventeenth Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20508

RE: Extension of Section 301 China Tariffs Exclusions

Dear Ambassador Tai:

On behalf of the undersigned members of Americans for Free Trade, we are writing to request that USTR provide an immediate extension for the limited China 301 [tariff exclusions](#) and [COVID exclusions](#), which are currently set to expire on September 30, less than 3 months from now. It is critical that USTR announce its plans – ideally a continuation of the existing exclusions – for these exclusions now so that companies can plan accordingly.

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 more than [\\$183 billion](#) in section 301 tariffs on products imported from China. The product exclusions granted to date have provided limited relief for some companies over this time. However, USTR has yet to announce whether the current exclusions – which expire in less than 90 days – will be extended.

As USTR is fully aware, American businesses make their supply chain and sourcing decisions many months in advance of products arriving here in the U.S. Since the tariffs have been in place, exclusion extensions have been announced routinely at the last-minute – sometimes within mere days of the exclusions being set to expire. Such late announcements create planning issues for companies who made their sourcing decisions months in advance. Providing early extensions will provide certainty for American companies and help maintain their competitiveness – especially those who import products where there is no domestic or other sourcing alternative – as well as ensure continued access to life saving goods. Failure to provide early and timely information undermines the Administration’s state goals of ensuring supply chain resiliency.

Any delay in announcements regarding the exclusions extension or expiration compels American companies to incorporate 25 percent price increases into product lines that may soon be without a Section 301 tariff exclusion. Upward pricing pressure of this kind will continue to exacerbate inflationary pressures on American companies and the U.S. economy. We therefore urge USTR to provide continued relief by promptly renewing all the exclusions which are set to expire in September.

We also renew our request for USTR to create a more robust exclusions process that is open to all products that are covered by the China 301 tariffs. As long as the Section 301 tariffs remain in place, there should be a fair, transparent, and robust exclusions process available so that American businesses can apply for targeted relief. We also call upon USTR to finalize the results of the four-year statutory review of the 301 tariffs. The comment period for the review closed over six months ago. Americans for Free Trade was one of hundreds of groups and companies who commented about the continuing negative impact of the tariffs and the need for a new strategic approach to address China's unfair trade practices.

American families, workers and businesses continue to face unprecedented and uncertain economic challenges, and we believe the administration should use every available tool to provide economic relief and predictability going forward. Renewing the tariff exclusions that are set to expire in a few months with ample notice, opening up a new and robust exclusions process for all covered products, and completing and announcing the results of the 4-year review will help provide that.

Sincerely,

Accessories Council	American Pyrotechnics Association
ACT The App Association	American Rental Association
Agriculture Transportation Coalition (AgTC)	American Seed Trade Association
ALMA, International (Association of Loudspeaker Manufacturing and Acoustics)	American Specialty Toy Retailing Association
American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)	American Trucking Associations
American Association of Exporters and Importers (AAEI)	Arizona Technology Council
American Association of Port Authorities	Arkansas Grocers and Retail Merchants Association
American Bakers Association	Association For Creative Industries
American Bridal & Prom Industry Association (ABPIA)	Association for PRINT Technologies
American Chemistry Council	Association of American Publishers
American Clean Power Association	Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)
American Coatings Association, Inc. (ACA)	Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers
American Down and Feather Council	Auto Care Association
American Fly Fishing Trade Association	Beer Institute
American Home Furnishings Alliance	BSA The Software Alliance
American Lighting Association	Building Service Contractors Association International (BSCAI)
American Petroleum Institute	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)
 Coalition of Services Industries (CSI)
 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
 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)
 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 Chemical Distributors (NACD)
 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 Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association of America
 National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)
 National Fisheries Institute
 National Foreign Trade Council
 National Grocers Association

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