

# AMERICANS FOR FREE ★ TRADE

January 9, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader McConnell:

Congratulations on becoming a Member of the 116th Congress. We appreciate your dedication to public service and your willingness to make the many sacrifices entailed by Federal service.

Our companies and associations joined together to form Americans for Free Trade ([www.americansforfreetrade.com](http://www.americansforfreetrade.com)), a growing coalition comprised of manufacturers, farmers and agribusinesses, retailers, technology companies, service providers, natural gas and oil companies, importers and exporters, and other supply chain stakeholders who are united in their concern about the negative impacts that indiscriminate tariffs will continue to have on U.S. businesses, workers and consumers.

The 116<sup>th</sup> Congress is beginning during a period of unprecedented economic growth and job creation, yet continued prosperity is not a foregone conclusion. We share the broadly-held concern about the impact to the U.S. economy of the Section 301 tariffs on imports from China, Section 232 tariffs on steel and aluminum imports and corresponding retaliation against U.S. exports. We agree that China must be held to account for its violations of our trade laws and the international trade obligations all nations share. However, imposition of a tariff of up to 25 percent on \$250 billion worth of China products – and the threat to impose a similar duty on \$267 billion more of such products – will not remedy the situation. We continue to see stories on a daily basis about companies, both large and small, who are being harmed by these tariffs. Similarly, the tariffs on imported steel and aluminum, and the resulting retaliatory tariffs on U.S. exports are further harming U.S. companies of all sizes.

Over decades, Americans have built global supply chains that reflect the U.S. economy's strengths and those of its trading partners. These supply chains have made the U.S. economy even more dependent upon relationships with key economic and strategic allies than ever before. Supply chains are extremely complex and they cannot be shifted overnight. The disruption caused by the use of tariffs seeks to harm these key relationships and damage the U.S. economy, which still remains extremely strong.

AFT has joined with Farmers for Free Trade to support the “Tariffs Hurt the Heartland” campaign ([www.tariffshurt.com](http://www.tariffshurt.com)) to highlight and show the negative impacts of the tariffs to businesses large and small, workers and families.

We hope you will lend your support to AFT’s efforts across the country and participate in in-district events with affected stakeholders. We also strongly encourage Congress to exercise its oversight role on trade policy matters to prevent further harm to U.S. workers, consumers, and families that will result from both the existing and proposed tariffs.

We invite you to learn more about the negative impact of tariffs in your state by visiting [www.tariffshurt.com/state-impact-reports](http://www.tariffshurt.com/state-impact-reports). If you have questions about the AFT coalition, please visit [www.americansforfreetrade.com](http://www.americansforfreetrade.com) or contact [info@americansforfreetrade.com](mailto:info@americansforfreetrade.com).

Sincerely,

Accessories Council	California Retailers Association
Agriculture Transportation Coalition (AgTC)	Coalition of New England Companies for Trade (CONNECT)
ALMA, International (Association of Loudspeaker Manufacturing and Acoustics)	Coalition of Services Industries (CSI)
American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)	Colorado Retail Council
American Association of Exporters and Importers (AAEI)	Columbia River Customs Brokers and Forwarders Assn.
American Association of Port Authorities	Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA)
American Bakers Association	Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA)
American Chemistry Council	Consumer Technology Association
American Coatings Association, Inc. (ACA)	Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA)
American Down and Feather Council	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
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	Gemini Shippers Association
Auto Care Association	
BSA   The Software Alliance	
Business & Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association (BIFMA)	

Georgia Retailers  
 Global Chamber®  
 Global Cold Chain Alliance  
 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  
 Juice Products Association (JPA)  
 Juvenile Products Manufacturers 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  
 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 Trailer Manufacturers (NATM)  
 National Confectioners Association  
 National Council of Chain Restaurants  
 National Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association of America  
 National Electrical Equipment 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  
 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  
 Organization for International Investment  
 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.  
 SEMI  
 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  
Telecommunications Industry Association  
(TIA)  
Texas Retailers Association  
Texas Water Infrastructure Network  
The Airforwarders Association  
The Fertilizer Institute  
The Hardwood Federation  
The Toy Association

The Vinyl Institute  
Travel Goods Association  
Truck & Engine Manufacturers Association (EMA)  
U.S. Hide, Skin and Leather Association  
United States Council for International Business  
United States Fashion Industry Association  
US Global Value Chain Coalition  
US-China Business Council  
Virginia Retail Merchants Association  
Virginia-DC District Export Council (VA-DC DEC)  
Washington Retail Association  
Window and Door Manufacturers Association  
World Pet Association, Inc. (WPA)