

# AMERICANS FOR FREE ★ TRADE

September 12, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

Like you, we have heard the urgent concerns from businesses across the country about the negative impact of tariffs on American economic growth, jobs, and prosperity. Today, in response to these concerns, we are writing to officially announce the formation of Americans for Free Trade. We are a growing coalition representing U.S. manufacturers, farmers and agribusinesses, retailers, technology companies, service suppliers, natural gas and oil companies, importers, exporters, and other supply chain stakeholders, who are united in their concern about the negative impacts that the new tariffs are and will continue to have on U.S. businesses, workers and consumers.

While we agree that there are issues that need to be addressed with key trading partners, tariffs are the wrong approach to bring about meaningful change. Every day, companies large and small are sharing their stories of the harm the tariffs and ensuing retaliation are causing across all sectors of the American economy.

Americans for Free Trade will be joining with Farmers for Free Trade to support the “Tariffs Hurt the Heartland” campaign, which has effectively shown the growing negative impact of tariffs on the farming and agriculture economy. Americans for Free Trade will add to this effort by showing the impact to the other sectors of the economy represented by our coalition. Working together, our campaign will amplify the voices of the American families, workers, farmers and businesses who are being hurt by these tariffs.

Our effort will begin where the tariffs have already caused great harm: at the grassroots level in the American heartland. Beginning with the September Congressional recess and continuing in the Fall, we will be holding events that bring together those Americans whose livelihoods have been impacted by tariffs for public events that highlight the need to de-escalate the trade war.

We hope you will lend your support to our 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 new tariffs – both those already being implemented and future tariffs that have been proposed.

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

Sincerely,

1. Agriculture Transportation Coalition (AgTC)
2. American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)
3. American Association of Exporters and Importers (AAEI)
4. American Association of Port Authorities
5. American Chemistry Council
6. American Home Furnishings Alliance
7. American Lighting Association
8. American Petroleum Institute
9. American Pyrotechnics Association
10. American Rental Association
11. Arkansas Grocers and Retail Merchants Association
12. Association For Creative Industries
13. Association for PRINT Technologies
14. Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)
15. Business & Institutional Furniture Manufacturers Association (BIFMA)
16. Coalition of New England Companies for Trade (CONNECT)
17. Coalition of Service Industries (CSI)
18. Colorado Retail Council
19. Columbia River Customs Brokers and Forwarders Assn.
20. Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA)
21. Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA)
22. Consumer Technology Association
23. Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA)
24. CropLife America
25. Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders Assn. of Washington State
26. Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders of Northern California
27. Distilled Spirits Council of the United States
28. Electronic Transactions Association
29. Fashion Accessories Shippers Association (FASA)
30. Fashion Jewelry & Accessories Trade Association (FJATA)
31. Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America (FDRA)
32. Fragrance Creators Association
33. Gemini Shippers Association
34. Global Cold Chain Alliance
35. Grocery Manufacturers Association
36. Halloween Industry Association
37. Home Furnishings Association

38. Household and Commercial Products Association
39. Idaho Retailers Association
40. Indiana Retail Council
41. Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
42. International Housewares Association
43. International Wood Products Association
44. Internet Association
45. Juice Products Association (JPA)
46. Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association
47. Los Angeles Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Assn.
48. Maine Lobster Dealers' Association
49. Methanol Institute
50. Minnesota Retailers Association
51. Missouri Retailers Association
52. National Association of Chain Drug Stores (NACDS)
53. National Association of Chemical Distributors (NACD)
54. National Association of Foreign-Trade Zones
55. National Association of Music Merchants
56. National Confectioners Association
57. National Council of Chain Restaurants
58. National Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association of America
59. National Fisheries Institute
60. National Foreign Trade Council
61. National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association
62. National Marine Manufacturers Association
63. National Restaurant Association
64. National Retail Federation
65. Natural Products Association
66. Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Assns. Inc.
67. PeopleforBikes
68. Personal Care Products Council
69. Petroleum Equipment & Services Association
70. Plumbing Manufacturers International
71. Promotional Products Association International
72. Retail Association of Maine
73. Retail Industry Leaders Association
74. RISE (Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment)
75. San Diego Customs Brokers and Forwarders Assn.
76. SEMI
77. Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA)
78. Specialty Equipment Market Association
79. Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)
80. Texas Retailers Association
81. The Fertilizer Institute
82. The Hardwood Federation
83. The Toy Association

84. Travel Goods Association (TGA)
85. Truck & Engine Manufacturers Association
86. United States Council for International Business
87. United States Fashion Industry Association
88. US-China Business Council
89. Window and Door Manufacturers Association
90. World Pet Association, Inc. (WPA)

cc: Members, U.S. House of Representatives