



Jeffrey Gerrish
Deputy United States Trade Representative
Office of the United States Trade Representative
1724 F Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

September 18, 2019

Dear Ambassador Gerrish,

On behalf of the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), the leading trade association representing the manufacturers and suppliers of high-tech communications networks, we are writing in support of ongoing trade negotiations between the U.S. and India. As the two countries continue to negotiate, we respectfully urge the Administration to ensure that a deal with India includes the reinstatement of duty-free treatment of information communication technology (ICT) products, which are bound at a zero-tariff rate under its WTO Goods Schedule.

Since 2014, India has repeatedly increased import duties on certain ICT products. For example, India now imposes duties of 20 percent on telecommunications products such as switches and base stations and imposes a 10 percent tariff on parts for telecommunications equipment. We also understand that India intends to impose additional import duties on certain routers with multifunctional capacity as of October 1, barring further developments.

As the U.S. government continues its trade discussions with India, we urge the administration to secure a deal that ensures that India complies with its commitments under its WTO Goods Schedule. A high-quality agreement with India would support U.S. exports and U.S. jobs.

We appreciate your hard work and the excellent work of your staff, and are happy to assist in any way we can going forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick Lozada". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light gray rectangular background.

Patrick Lozada
Director of Global Policy



Telecommunications Industry Association

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Cc:

Christopher Wilson, Assistant USTR for South and Central Asian Affairs

Jim Sanford, Assistant USTR for Small Business, Market Access, and Industrial Competitiveness

Samuel Scales, Deputy Assistant USTR for Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Engagement