

May 20, 2021

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chairman
Senate Finance Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Michael Crapo
Ranking Member
Senate Finance Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Neal
Chairman
House Ways & Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Ranking Member
House Ways & Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Wyden, Ranking Member Crapo, Chairman Neal and Ranking Member Brady,

On behalf of the undersigned associations, we are writing to share with you a new economic study that highlights the essential role that imports play in the U.S. and global economy. More times than not, U.S. trade policy focuses on the role of exports to the economy while taking a negative view toward the role of imports. However our “[Imports Work for American Workers](#)” study has found that imports support more than 21 million net American jobs. As new “worker centric” trade policies are developed, they must include consideration of the millions of American jobs that exist because of imports.

The study was commissioned by the American Apparel and Footwear Association, the American Chemistry Council, the Consumer Technology Association, the National Foreign Trade Council, the National Retail Federation, the Retail Industry Leaders Association, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the U.S. Fashion Industry Association, and the U.S. Global Value Chain Coalition and prepared by [Trade Partnership Worldwide, LLC](#). The study is being released in conjunction with “[World Trade Week](#)” and “[World Trade Month](#).”

Among the report’s key findings:

- Imports support more than 21 million American jobs across the country, including a net positive number in every U.S. state. The 10 states accounting for the largest number of import-related jobs are California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas and Virginia.
- Imports from key trading partners – including Canada, China, the European Union and Mexico – support a net positive number of U.S. jobs.
- Import-related jobs are good jobs that pay competitive wages. Nearly 8 million of the jobs related to importing are held by minorities and 2.5 million jobs are held by workers represented by unions.
- The vast majority (96 percent) of companies who import are small or medium-sized businesses.
- U.S. trade policies, many now pending before Congress and the Administration, have the potential to support – or hurt – these jobs.

As Congress and the administration continue to focus on building back better and reestablishing U.S. leadership on global trade, we recommend the passage of the following legislative priorities, which will help stimulate the ongoing economic recovery for those American workers whose jobs are supported by imports:

- Retroactive renewal of the Generalized System of Preferences;
- Passage of the Miscellaneous Trade Bill, with retroactivity;
- Elimination of harmful tariffs (China Section 301, Steel/Aluminum Section 232, etc.) that have led to job losses and increased prices for Americans;
- Reinstatement of a fair and transparent exclusion processes for the China Section 301 and Steel/Aluminum Section 232 tariffs; and
- Renewal of Trade Promotion Authority to send a clear signal that the U.S. is serious about negotiating new bilateral and multilateral free trade agreements that remove trade barriers and open foreign markets to American goods and services.

We look forward to working with Congress and the administration to advance U.S. leadership on global trade. Central to this is recognizing the importance of imports to American workers and the U.S. economy for continued growth and recovery.

Sincerely,



UNITED STATES
FASHION INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION



CC: Senate Finance Committee
House Ways & Means Committee