

March 7, 2016

The Honorable Michael Froman
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Froman:

As leading footwear domestic manufacturers, we write to express our support for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). We are strong supporters of TPP because it would strengthen our domestic manufacturing facilities while adding new jobs for Americans in trucking, warehousing, retail and port logistics.

Tariffs on footwear average over ten percent and can reach up to 67.5 percent. These high rates have done little to keep footwear manufacturing jobs in America. We continue to manufacture in the U.S. to meet the needs of specific market segments, but in order to remain competitive, we also import large numbers of shoes to meet the diverse demands of American footwear customers. Rather than help us keep manufacturing jobs, these tariffs today only serve as an added cost in our supply chains and a hidden tax on American consumers. In addition, international tariffs from countries like Japan restrict our ability to export shoes to new consumers.

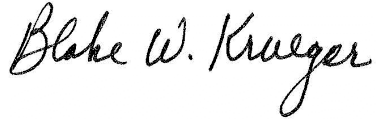
The hundreds of thousands of Americans employed in the U.S. footwear industry, including those who work in our factories in Michigan, Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Oregon, depend on the ability of our companies to remain globally competitive and deliver footwear to consumers all over the world. We strive to make the most innovative products and provide the greatest value to consumers, but struggle with a complex and outdated tariff system here in the U.S. and abroad.

TPP would greatly benefit our industry, because it would reduce some of the outdated duties that limit footwear job creation. The savings that TPP would provide to our industry — \$450 million in the first year alone and \$6 billion over the first decade — could be used to strengthen our domestic operations. Further, lowering barriers in foreign markets through TPP means that we could see meaningful growth in footwear exports. By both lowering costs on our imported products and allowing us to sell more of our American-made footwear abroad, our companies would be stronger financially and would be able to invest back into our domestic operations.

Thank you for working to advance this important agreement for U.S. footwear companies and consumers. Our plants are always open to a visit from you or any government official to see and hear firsthand how tariffs impact our workers. We remain active partners with the entire footwear industry through the Footwear Distributors and Retailers

of America (FDRA) in helping press for congressional approval of TPP. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if we can support your efforts on Capitol Hill as well.

Sincerely,



Blake Krueger
Chairman, President & CEO
Wolverine Worldwide



James E. Issler
President & CEO
H.H. Brown Shoe Company



CEA

Alan Cahill
CEO
Elan-Polo



Koya Oba
President
LaCrosse Footwear, Inc.