

February 17, 2022

The Honorable Jared Bernstein  
Member, Council of Economic Advisors  
Executive Office of the President  
17th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest  
Washington, DC 20504

Dear Mr. Bernstein:

You recently stated that “we have way more work to do” in responding to continuing high inflation. Shoe prices are now at record highs, hurting American families buying shoes for their kids.

**We urge you to encourage the President to sign a new executive order striking down the 301 tariffs on basic consumer goods like shoes to help reduce these price spikes.**

Some of the highest tariff rates in the entire U.S. Tariff Code fall on low value shoes and children’s shoes, hitting working class families at a time when they can least afford it. The 301 tariffs significantly increased the burden on families – adding more hidden taxes on top of what individuals and families already pay. For those few children’s shoes with relatively lower rates, the 301 tariffs meant drastic rate increases. With the added 301 tariffs, the tariff rate doubled for certain children’s casual shoes and slippers. The rate more than tripled for certain plastic sandals, wool slippers, and infant crib shoes.

Footwear is now seeing the highest prices in 40 years. Big box retailers and national chains are having to pass along the added costs to their consumers. Eliminating the 301 tariffs on shoes would reduce costs for American individuals and families and help address rising inflation.

The time for action is now. Please urge the President to take advantage of what he can control and immediately eliminate the 301 tariffs on footwear.

Sincerely,



Matt Priest  
President & CEO  
Footwear Distributors & Retailers of America