

November 17, 2021

The Honorable Joe Biden  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you look for ways to address the current challenges of inflation, we urge you to end the 301 tariffs paid by U.S. companies and consumers. This would provide immediate relief for American individuals and families. On Sunday, November 14th, Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said that removing these tariffs would make a difference because tariffs raise domestic prices.

We strongly agree with Secretary Yellen's comments on the current impact of the tariffs. Today, American families face skyrocketing cost increases on kids' shoes — the highest in over 70 years. Our outdated Tariff Code greatly burdens working-class families, because the highest tariff rates fall on children's shoes and lower-value shoes. These rates are often 20 percent and 37.5 percent and can reach nearly 70 percent in some cases. The previous Administration added to this already-high burden by imposing additional 301 tariffs on a range of footwear items.

For those few children's shoes with relatively lower rates, the 301 tariffs led to drastic rate increases. With the added 301 tariffs, the tariff rate doubled for certain children's casual shoes and slippers, and it more than tripled for certain plastic sandals, wool slippers, and infant crib shoes. U.S. families, already struggling with higher prices on many household products, have to buy multiple pairs of shoes each year as their children grow. Our government trade policies directly impact these families, especially when it comes to footwear, and the cost can be felt now more than ever.

U.S. companies and consumers face numerous issues as we emerge from the pandemic, in particular a supply chain crisis and inflationary pressures. As you work to address these issues, we urge you to immediately remove outdated footwear tariffs to provide some much-needed relief to American families, businesses, and workers during these difficult times.

Sincerely,



Matt Priest  
President & CEO  
Footwear Distributors & Retailers of America