



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Statement from Matt Priest, President and CEO of FDRA, Ahead of Presidential Debate**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Today, **Matt Priest, President and CEO of Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America (FDRA)**, released the following statement ahead of the upcoming presidential debate:

“As we approach the upcoming presidential debate, we cannot ignore the burdens that footwear tariffs continue to place on hardworking American families.

“If action isn’t taken, we will continue to see these challenges persist through this year’s holiday season, the New Year, and beyond. Vice President Harris and former President Trump have an opportunity to address this pressing issue because we are not putting Americans first if we're taking them first. I look forward to hearing how the candidates plan to tackle this problem and provide relief to American families.”

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### **About FDRA**

FDRA is governed and directed by footwear executives and is the only trade organization focused solely on the footwear industry. Serving the full footwear supply chain, it boosts its members’ bottom lines through innovative products, training, consulting on footwear design and development, sourcing and compliance, trade and customs, advocacy, and consumer and sales trend analysis for shoe retailers around the world. FDRA supports 500 companies and brands worldwide, representing 95% of the total U.S. footwear industry. Learn more: [fdra.org](https://fdra.org)

As a follow-up to FDRA's Matt Priest's statement this morning regarding footwear tariffs ahead of the presidential debate, we wanted to share a fact sheet that supports his remarks. This is just for background and provides additional context on the impact of tariffs on the footwear industry and consumers.