

PRESS RELEASE | May 31, 2019

FDRA President & CEO Matt Priest statement on President Trump's Mexico tariff increase announcement

FDRA President & CEO Matt Priest made the following statement on President Trump's Mexico tariff increase announcement:

"We are deeply concerned about the President's continued use of tariffs as a political weapon. It simply does not make sense to impose massive tax increases on hardworking American individuals and families as a bargaining chip for negotiating with Mexico or China. On the China front, U.S. footwear companies and consumers are now facing an additional 25 percent tariff on top of already record high footwear tariffs. This would mean nearly a 100 percent tariff on certain types of shoes and additional cost increases of over \$7 billion annually for footwear consumers. The President's most-recent announcement on Mexico threatens further harm to U.S. footwear consumers and companies. The value of US footwear imports from Mexico jumped 20% in 2018 to \$500.2 million, the second-biggest year on record. Mexico serves as a strategic sourcing location for certain brands wanting to make quality leather shoes at affordable prices close to market. Adding higher costs on these shoes from Mexico not only raises rates, but it will start to limit product we see on store shelves. The shoe consumer is losing across the board if we see higher tariffs, and there is nowhere around it."

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