

Footwear & Politics

By Thomas Crockett • Apr 09, 2025

Smart Brevity® count: 2 mins...584 words

The President announced an increased tariff rate for Chinese products and a 90-day reciprocal tariff pause for other countries.

Critical FDRA member-only information below.

President announces tariff pause, new China tariffs



This afternoon, President Trump announced an emergency tariff rate increase for Chinese-made goods AND a 90-day reciprocal tariff pause for other countries. **The new rate will be 125% for Chinese made products.**

- This added 125 percent tariff rate is stacked on top of the existing high footwear tariff rates and 301 tariffs.
- The 125 percent number includes the 20 percent fentanyl-related tariff, the 34 percent emergency “reciprocal” tariff, and the added emergency tariffs in response to China’s retaliation.
- According to the President’s Truth Social statement, the new tariff rate will hit companies immediately.

Tell me more: President Trump originally announced 34 percent added “reciprocal” tariffs on 🇨🇳 Chinese products on April 2. China retaliated by announcing 34 percent tariffs on 🇺🇸 U.S. goods.

- President Trump responded by announcing a tariff rate increase that brought the total to a 104 emergency tariff rate, effective last night. China responded today with 84 percent tariffs on U.S. goods. The President has now increased the rate to 125 percent, effective today.

The 90-Day Pause: The President is delaying the reciprocal tariffs for 90 days to allow time for nearly 80 countries to try to negotiate with the U.S. We believe 🇻🇳 Vietnam will be one of the first in line to negotiate a deal.

- **Yes, but:** The President indicated the 10% universal rate will still apply.

The President’s Statement:



Donald J. Trump
@realDonaldTrump

Based on the lack of respect that China has shown to the World’s Markets, I am hereby raising the Tariff charged to China by the United States of America to 125%, effective immediately. At some point, hopefully in the near future, China will realize that the days of ripping off the U.S.A., and other Countries, is no longer sustainable or acceptable. Conversely, and based on the fact that more than 75 Countries have called Representatives of the United States, including the Departments of Commerce, Treasury, and the USTR, to negotiate a solution to the subjects being discussed relative to Trade, Trade Barriers, Tariffs, Currency Manipulation, and Non Monetary Tariffs, and that these Countries have not, at my strong suggestion, retaliated in any way, shape, or form against the United States, I have authorized a 90 day PAUSE, and a substantially lowered Reciprocal Tariff during this period, of 10%, also effective immediately. Thank you for your attention to this matter!

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We will keep you updated with additional details as they become available.

Join FDRA for congressional meetings on tariffs



If you are planning to come to D.C. for the FDRA Shoe Executive Strategy Summit, we invite you to join us for meetings with members of Congress and congressional staff on April 30th (afternoon) and May 1st (all day).

Get involved: For those considering participating in our fly in, please note the following updates:

- Capitol Hill meetings will begin after the completion of the Summit on Wednesday afternoon, 4/30, with additional meetings scheduled for Thursday, 5/1. We hope to wrap up around 2 p.m. on Thursday.
- **Given the timeliness of our issues and the Hill schedule, we will need a commitment by this Friday, 4 p.m. ET if you will be participating.** We will be creating a very targeted approach to which members and staff we meet with based upon company representation. We appreciate your understanding of this deadline.
- Please email me at tcrockett@fdra.org to sign up for the Hill Days.

New letter to Congress: Stop the emergency tariffs



FDRA has launched a new [letter](#) to members of Congress, urging Congress to stop the President’s emergency tariffs. Please take 30-seconds to send a letter to your member of Congress today.

Send the letter

🗣️ **Why it matters:** Members of Congress are feeling the pressure from constituents on many different issues, and some Republicans are starting to push back on the emergency tariffs:

- Yesterday, during a key congressional trade hearing, Senator Thom Tillis (R-NC) asked the U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer, “Whose throat do I get to choke if this proves to be wrong?” [Read more.](#)

👥 **Get involved:** We encourage you to share the letter with family and friends and put out a note to everyone in your company asking them to take 30 seconds to email the letter to their member of Congress.

Please keep the questions coming. We’re on stand-by to handle your inquiries in realtime.

Matt and Thomas

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