

PRESS RELEASE | May 1, 2025

Footwear Industry Urges President Trump to Exempt Shoes from Harmful Tariffs

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The **Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America (FDRA)**, alongside more than 80 leading U.S. footwear companies, sent a letter to President Donald Trump urging him to exempt footwear from the administration's new reciprocal tariffs.

The letter warns that without swift relief, the tariffs could force hundreds of businesses to close, eliminate tens of thousands of jobs, and drive up costs for hardworking American families.

“Our industry is uniquely vulnerable,” **the letter states**. “With some of the highest tariff rates already in place—especially on children’s and low-cost shoes—these new tariffs are simply unsustainable. They won’t bring manufacturing back, but they will hurt families at the register.”

The letter includes strong support from major brands like Nike, adidas, Skechers, Steve Madden, and Under Armour, among others. **FDRA** calls on the administration to act quickly and remove footwear from the tariff list to avoid severe economic consequences for workers and consumers.

Read the full letter here: [FDRA Letter to President Trump – April 2025](#)

Recent Coverage on Footwear and Inflation Trends:

1. **Footwear News** – [Industry Leaders Launch Footwear Innovation Foundation](#)
2. **New York Times** – [How Tariffs Work](#)
3. **Reuters**: [Clothing retailers delay orders, freeze hiring as tariffs hit](#)
4. **AP**: [Tariffs will make sneakers, jeans and almost everything Americans wear cost more, trade groups warn](#)

For more information or to schedule an interview with Matt Priest, please [contact FDRA](#).

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