

PRESS RELEASE | May 30, 2025

Footwear and Apparel Industry Thanks President Trump in New Letter for Recognizing Tariff Limits, Urges Smart Trade Policy to Protect U.S. Jobs and Families

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The **Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America (FDRA)** and leading industry groups and brands sent a joint letter to President Donald J. Trump.

The letter, signed by the **FDRA**, the American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA), the Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA), the Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA), and the U.S. Fashion Industry Association (USFIA), thanks President Trump for acknowledging that tariffs are not a viable tool to bring sneaker and T-shirt production back to the U.S.

“We appreciate your acknowledgment of the real-world challenges our industries face,” the letter states. “Footwear and apparel manufacturing are both labor- and capital-intensive. There are very few sourcing locations capable of meeting the scale and cost demands of U.S. consumers, and establishing footwear and apparel factories requires years of planning and investment.”

For decades, the footwear and apparel industries have operated under some of the highest tariff burdens of any sector—far exceeding the average rates applied to consumer goods. However, President Trump’s recent, pragmatic shift in acknowledging the limitations of tariff policy presents a new opportunity for targeted trade strategies that can reduce consumer costs while supporting high-value U.S. jobs.

“We appreciate your recognition of the need to deliver high-value, good-paying jobs to American workers,” **the letter continues**. “As an industry that already directly supports more than 3.5 million high-value U.S. jobs as we design, craft, and deliver responsible, affordable, and authentic fashion to U.S. consumers, we stand ready to help.”

Read the full letter here: [FDRA Letter to President Trump — May 29, 2025](#)

Recent Coverage on Footwear and Inflation Trends:

1. **NY1:** [Children's shoe store in Morningside Heights to close after nearly 20 years](#)
2. **New York Times –** [How Tariffs Work](#)
3. **Reuters:** [Trump says US wants to make tanks, not T-shirts](#)
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