




Footwear & Politics

By Thomas Crockett • Nov 25, 2025


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Yesterday, FDRA sent a [letter](#) to President Trump urging him to remove footwear tariffs to achieve his goals of affordability for American consumers.

Read the letter

 **The big picture:** The President recently announced that he was removing the reciprocal tariffs for certain ag products like coffee, bananas, coconuts, pineapples, certain nuts, and certain spices.

- This new action applies to all countries regardless of whether the countries have reached a tariff deal with the U.S.

 **Our thought bubble:** There is no greater way to achieve affordability for consumers than removing footwear tariffs. However, this is an uphill battle, because it would require the administration to reverse course on its broad tariff policy. Ag products have been on a special list for a while known as Annex III, which indicates areas where the U.S. might be willing to make tariff concessions.

What we said: “Mr. President, reducing or eliminating footwear tariffs would be a strong, pro-family decision consistent with your recent actions to lower costs without jeopardizing American workers or national security. We stand ready to work with your administration to ensure tariff policy supports families and businesses rather than adding to their financial burden.”

 **A few key points in the letter on why this action is needed:**

- Lowering footwear tariffs reduces costs for millions of American families.
- Shoes of all types are not made in the United States at scale, so tariffs do not protect American jobs.
- High tariffs on footwear add to inflation at a time when families are already feeling economic strain.
- The combined MFN + reciprocal tariff rates can reach up to 87.5 percent on many children’s shoes, with significant increases on adult footwear as well.

As always, we will send out key updates to FDRA members as we receive them.



Thanks for reading. We’re available for any questions or comments you might have.

Matt and Thomas

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