FDRA FOOTWEAR DISTRIBUTORS & RETAILERS OF AMERICA

PRESS RELEASE | **November 4, 2026**

FDRA Statement on the 2026 Midterm Elections

WASHINGTON, D.C. – **Matt Priest, President and CEO of Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America (FDRA)**, issued the following statement following the 2026 midterm elections:

"One message from this election is clear: Americans want Washington focused on making everyday life more affordable. Families are paying attention to the cost of necessities, and they expect their elected leaders to deliver meaningful relief.

"With Democrats taking control of the U.S. House and Senate, there is an opportunity for Congress to put affordability at the top of its agenda and find common ground on policies that lower costs for hardworking Americans.

"Footwear is a good place to start. Every child heading to school, every nurse reporting for a shift, and every worker earning a paycheck needs shoes. Yet footwear remains among the most heavily taxed consumer products in America, with combined tariffs on many children's shoes reaching as high as 87.5 percent. These are basic necessities, not luxury goods, and families shouldn't face such steep tariffs simply to buy the shoes their children need.

"FDRA stands ready to work with Democrats, Republicans and the Administration to advance common-sense tariff reform that reduces or removes tariffs on everyday necessities and helps make life more affordable for American families.".

For more information about FDRA or to schedule an interview with Matt Priest, please email fdracomms@cgagroup.com

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 98% of the total U.S. footwear industry. Learn more: **fdra.org**