

March 10, 2020

The Honorable Larry Kudlow  
Director, National Economic Council  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Kudlow:

We support the Administration's proposal for a payroll tax cut. This would provide an additional \$250 each month to shoe store employees across the country in a time of growing need.

We also believe the time is right for a freeze on footwear duties in order to reduce higher costs on American families.

In 2020, we estimate shoe duties will increase costs at the cash register by nearly \$12 billion just on shoes alone. This is a huge cost on a product every child and family needs. The White House has it within its power to enact duty freezes on its own. It could also choose to temporarily lower duty rates. This would allow more Americans to keep money in their pocket and increase consumer confidence.

Again, we support your payroll tax reduction, but it is not enough. We need to find more ways to lower costs on consumers to increase consumer confidence and keep shoe retail jobs robust.

Thank you for considering a freeze on shoe duties to help those in need during this challenging time.

Sincerely,



Matt Priest  
President & CEO  
Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America