

Press Release | **October 6, 2021**

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**Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America (FDRA) President and CEO Matt Priest issued the following statement on USTR’s announcement today of a new approach to the US-China trade relationship:**

“We appreciate the Biden Administration conducting a comprehensive review of U.S. China policy and re-engaging with China on matters of trade. No matter what the outcome of the U.S.-China talks, we strongly urge the Administration to remove tariffs on footwear and oppose any new shoe tariffs. This is critical because we currently face significant inflationary pressure, as well as unprecedented ocean shipping costs and transit delays. Removing all footwear tariffs would help alleviate some of this cost pressure hitting working Americans disproportionately. We are encouraged by the announcement today that the Administration will start a new 301 tariff exclusion process so that U.S. companies can seek some tariff relief during this difficult time. The Biden Administration should grant exclusions on tariffs applied to products unrelated to China’s industrialized China 2025 policy. **Footwear is not a focus of the China 2025 policy, therefore footwear should not be a focus of any U.S. trade enforcement measures.**”

**About FDRA:** FDRA is the footwear industry’s voice in Washington. It represents and advocates for nearly 500 companies and brands worldwide, or 95% of total U.S. footwear sales, making it America’s largest and most respected footwear trade association.