

FDRA President & CEO Matt Priest issued the following statement after the 2023 State of the Union:

In his 2023 State of the Union address, President Biden highlighted several issues that are important to the U.S. footwear industry: getting inflation under control, strengthening our nation’s infrastructure, and reducing ocean shipping costs. Absent from the speech, however, was any mention of the importance of international trade.

Presidents from both parties have long recognized the critical role international trade plays in providing new opportunities for U.S. businesses around the world and reducing costs for individuals and families here at home. If the President wants to achieve the vision he laid out in the State of the Union — “of rebuilding the backbone of America, America’s middle class” — he should start by providing meaningful footwear tariff relief for all American families. I urge President Biden to adopt a progressive and bold trade agenda that will strengthen U.S. footwear workers, consumers, and companies.

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 the bottom lines of its members through innovative products, training and 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 total U.S. footwear sales.