

May 10, 2024

The Honorable Joe Biden
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As U.S. footwear brands and retailers, we urge you to immediately remove 301 tariffs on footwear.

Tariffs operate as hidden taxes levied on American companies and consumers. Since the implementation of the 301 tariffs, retail footwear prices have risen sharply. In 2022, these prices soared at the fastest annual rate since the early 1980s. In March, footwear prices at retail increased year over year at the highest rate in 16 months.

The 301 tariffs also resulted in significant tariff rate increases for certain types of children's footwear. Children's footwear already faces the highest tariff rates of almost any consumer product.

Eliminating the 301 tariffs on shoes could help U.S. consumers as they struggle with inflation. The hyper-competitive nature of the mass retail footwear market requires companies to fiercely compete for the business of cost-conscious consumers through competitive pricing. ***We are confident that removing 301 tariffs will alleviate a costly burden in this key area and translate to savings for our shoppers.***

As you look for ways to reduce inflation for consumers, tariff policy provides a critical tool. Eliminating 301 tariffs on footwear will strengthen U.S. workers, businesses, and consumers.

Sincerely,

adidas America, Inc., Portland, OR
Advanced Manufacturing Group (AMG), Portsmouth, NH
Ariat International, Inc., San Leandro, CA
BBC International, Boca Raton, FL
Berkshire Hathaway Shoe Holdings, Inc., Greenwich, CT
Billy Footwear, Kent, WA
Black Diamond Equipment, Ltd., Salt Lake City, UT
Black Diamond Group, Woburn, MA
Bogs, Glendale, WI
Clarks Americas, Inc., Needham, MA
Columbia Sportswear, Portland, OR
Corral Boot Co. LLC, McAllen, TX

Deer Stags, New York, NY
Designer Brands, Columbus, OH
Dolce Vita, Long Island City, NY
Dynamic Foam, Steamboat Springs, CO
Florsheim, Glendale, WI
Footwear Unlimited, Inc., Fenton, MO
Forsake, Glendale, WI
Fortune Footwear, New York, NY
Galaxy Universal, LLC, New York, NY
Genesco, Nashville, TN
jbrds, Baltimore, MD
Johnston & Murphy, Nashville, TN
LaCrosse Footwear, Portland, OR
NIKE, Inc., Beaverton, OR
Nunn Bush, Glendale, WI
PUMA North America, Inc., Somerville, MA
Rack Room Shoes, Charlotte, NC
Reliable Knitting Works, Milwaukee, WI
Rocky Brands, Inc., Nelsonville, OH
Shoe Carnival, Evansville, IN
Shoe Sensation, Inc., Jeffersonville, IN
Shoe Show, Inc., Concord, NC
Stacy Adams, Glendale, WI
Steve Madden, Long Island City, NY
Vida Shoes, New York, NY
Washington Shoe Company, Renton, WA
Weyco Group Inc., Glendale, WI
White Mountain Int'l LLC, Lisbon, NH

cc: The Honorable Katherine Tai, United States Trade Representative
The Honorable Gina M. Raimondo, Secretary of Commerce
The Honorable Janet Yellen, Secretary of the Treasury
Mr. Jeffrey Zients, White House Chief of Staff