

ELECTION STATEMENT: FDRA's Matt Priest Congratulates President-Elect Trump and Urges Common Sense Tariff Reform for American Families

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In case you missed it, the results are in, and tariffs remain a critical issue as the nation looks to the next administration under President-elect Donald J. Trump. **Footwear Distributors & Retailers of America (FDRA) President & CEO Matt Priest** congratulates President-elect Trump and offers the industry a partnership to ease the burden of footwear tariffs on American families, particularly those affecting women and children.

“We congratulate President-elect Trump on winning the 2024 election. Now is the time for us to focus on bringing the country together and finding solutions to the challenges we face as a nation. America has a real opportunity to make significant strides for American families and consumers. This is a goal the American footwear industry shares with President-elect Trump. We look forward to sitting down with the new administration to provide insights into the challenges unique to our industry and the importance of our over 300,000 U.S. footwear jobs located in all 50 states.

“Policies of the last several years have added unnecessary costs to everyday items like shoes, particularly shoes for women and children. We want to work with the new administration on ways to make America more affordable for families. This is critical when it comes to tariff policy as well. While there may be benefits of specific tariffs on strategic items, taxes on consumer goods like footwear translate into added costs for American families.

“We stand ready to work with the administration on common-sense measures to ease the financial burdens across the country and grow American footwear jobs over the next four years.”

As the leader of the largest and most effective footwear association in the United States, Matt Priest's insights on these trade discussions are essential for understanding how they affect the footwear industry and the broader economy. FDRA advocates for trade policies that are fair and balanced, reducing the heavy burden that current tariffs impose on American families. Tariff relief is a critical step toward ensuring trade policies work for everyone, especially families trying to make ends meet. As tariff talks continue to develop, FDRA remains committed to ensuring that footwear tariffs stay front and center—because American families feel the impact daily.

Visit the FDRA [website](#) for more information. To schedule an interview with Matt Priest on the state of the footwear industry, please email fdracomms@cgagroup.com.

About: FDRA is governed and directed by footwear executives and is the only trade organization focused solely on the 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 95% of the total U.S. footwear industry.