

November 24, 2025

The Honorable Donald Trump
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the Footwear Distributors & Retailers of America (FDRA), we write to express our appreciation for your commitment to keeping prices affordable for all Americans. Your recent announcements reducing or removing tariffs on several food products show a clear understanding that lowering tariffs on items not produced in the United States does not harm American workers or national security. We applaud this practical, pro-consumer approach.

We respectfully urge you to apply this same reasoning to footwear tariffs across the board, especially those that fall hardest on American families. Like many of the food items your Administration recently addressed, shoes are not manufactured domestically at scale. The tariffs on them do not protect U.S. jobs or advance national security interests. Instead, they inflate prices on an essential product every family must purchase year after year.

As we have detailed in past correspondence, footwear tariffs remain among the highest of any consumer product category. While the average tariff on consumer goods is just over 2 percent, footwear tariffs average more than 12 percent. For some categories, including many children's shoes, rates often exceed 48 percent *even without the added reciprocal tariffs*.

These costs are passed directly to American families. Shoes are not optional purchases—they are required for school, work, sports, and basic health and safety. High tariffs on all footwear categories make it harder for families to stretch their budgets, especially during periods of inflation and economic uncertainty.

The reasoning behind your recent tariff reductions on food products applies precisely to footwear. Since shoes are not produced in the United States in meaningful quantities, tariffs do not spur domestic manufacturing or strengthen U.S. competitiveness. Instead, they raise retail prices and limit companies' ability to invest in innovation and job creation. Footwear companies have already paid more than \$5 billion in duties this year alone—costs that ultimately fall on American consumers.

For years, we warned the Biden administration that footwear tariffs were directly contributing to inflation and making everyday necessities more expensive for families. We presented clear data showing that these outdated tariffs served no strategic purpose and disproportionately harmed working parents. Despite these repeated warnings, the previous administration chose not to act, refused to ease these burdens, and left families paying more for a basic necessity.

You now have the opportunity to do what President Biden was unwilling to do: make it easier for American families to afford everyday items by reducing or eliminating tariffs on shoes. Action from your administration would provide immediate, meaningful savings for millions of households.

Why Action Is Needed Now:

- Lowering footwear tariffs reduces costs for millions of American families.
- Shoes of all types are not made in the United States at scale, so tariffs do not protect American jobs.
- High tariffs on footwear add to inflation at a time when families are already feeling economic strain.
- Combined tariff rates can reach up to 87.5 percent on many children's shoes, with significant increases on adult footwear as well.

Mr. President, reducing or eliminating footwear tariffs would be a strong, pro-family decision consistent with your recent actions to lower costs without jeopardizing American workers or national security. We stand ready to work with your administration to ensure tariff policy supports families and businesses rather than adding to their financial burden.

We would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or your team to discuss practical solutions that deliver relief for families and strengthen U.S. competitiveness.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of this issue.

Sincerely,



Matt Priest
President & CEO
Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America

cc:
The Honorable Scott Bessent
United States Secretary of the Treasury

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
United States Secretary of Commerce

The Honorable Jamieson Greer
United States Trade Representative

The Honorable Kevin Hassett, Ph.D.
Director, National Economic Council