

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 11, 2020

The Honorable Robert Lighthizer
United States Trade Representative
600 17th St. NW
Washington DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

We write today to strongly urge you to extend all active exclusions from the Section 301 China tariffs, which are currently scheduled to expire on December 31, 2020, for an appropriate amount of time to provide economic stability as businesses grapple the unprecedented hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

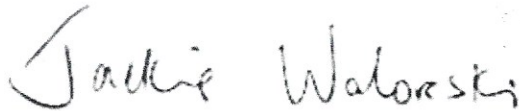
This issue is of vital importance. Our economy remains in a fragile state due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and many of the expiring exclusions are critical to the pandemic response. They cover inputs for household and professional cleaning goods, as well as personal protective equipment (PPE) and other medical supplies for doctor's offices and hospitals. This includes equipment for the administration of the vaccines that we all hope will defeat COVID-19. We should certainly examine our reliance on China for these articles and increase U.S. production, and we are actively engaged in crafting policies to do so. However, reducing tariffs is still necessary to maximize our supply of PPE and other supplies while companies build production capacity in the U.S. and re-shore supply chains.

Additionally, extending these exclusions will provide needed certainty for employers and help save jobs. The impact of expiration would be especially felt by small businesses that have been hardest hit through no fault of their own by stay-at-home orders and other measures taken to fight the pandemic. We recognize that the exclusions were granted in part on the premise that businesses need adequate time to relocate their supply chains out of China. However, manufacturing has taken a severe hit this year, making it extremely difficult amid this crisis to identify potential suppliers in the United States or abroad. With global travel essentially shut down, it has been difficult, if not impossible, for company representatives to travel to and inspect potential new sites and to build relationships with new partners. Again, small businesses are disproportionately harmed.

Extending exclusions before they expire will help with pandemic response, and it will save jobs, businesses, and livelihoods. We strongly urge you to extend all active exclusions before they expire at the end of this year.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



JACKIE WALORSKI
Member of Congress



COLLIN C. PETERSON
Member of Congress



DARIN LAHOOD
Member of Congress



RON KIND
Member of Congress

Also Co-Signing:

The Honorable A. Drew Ferguson, IV
The Honorable James P. McGovern
The Honorable Ron Estes
The Honorable Adrian Smith
The Honorable Ann Wagner
The Honorable Fred Keller
The Honorable Jim Cooper
The Honorable Donald S. Beyer Jr.
The Honorable Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
The Honorable Tom Emmer
The Honorable David Schweikert
The Honorable Don Bacon
The Honorable Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
The Honorable Lori Trahan
The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick
The Honorable Carol D. Miller
The Honorable Pete Olson
The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
The Honorable Steve Chabot
The Honorable Glenn Grothman
The Honorable H. Morgan Griffith
The Honorable Chris Pappas
The Honorable Steve Stivers
The Honorable Ken Calvert
The Honorable Steve Womack
The Honorable Terri A. Sewell
The Honorable Daniel T. Kildee
The Honorable Jahana Hayes
The Honorable Jeff Van Drew

The Honorable Ralph Norman
The Honorable Susan Wild
The Honorable Bradley S. Schneider
The Honorable Suzan DelBene
The Honorable Julia Brownley
The Honorable Chrissy Houlahan
The Honorable Jeff Duncan
The Honorable Betty McCollum
The Honorable George Holding
The Honorable Judy Chu
The Honorable Bill Johnson
The Honorable Rick Larsen
The Honorable Thomas R. Suozzi
The Honorable Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
The Honorable Lloyd Smucker
The Honorable Cheri Bustos
The Honorable Robert E. Latta
The Honorable Peter Welch
The Honorable Stephanie Murphy
The Honorable Rick W. Allen
The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici
The Honorable Lucy McBath
The Honorable Larry Bucshon, M.D.
The Honorable Kevin Hern
The Honorable Gus M. Bilirakis
The Honorable Devin Nunes
The Honorable James R. Baird
The Honorable John Katko
The Honorable Jimmy Panetta

The Honorable Lizzie Fletcher
The Honorable Ann McLane Kuster
The Honorable Adam Kinzinger
The Honorable Bill Huizenga
The Honorable Guy Reschenthaler
The Honorable Trey Hollingsworth
The Honorable Jackie Speier
The Honorable Sharice L. Davids
The Honorable Dean Phillips
The Honorable Mikie Sherrill
The Honorable Abigail D. Spanberger
The Honorable Josh Gottheimer
The Honorable Jodey C. Arrington