



April 22, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States

The White House  
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Washington, D.C. 20500

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Trenton, NE

**Stan Sorscher, Director**  
SPEEA/IFPTE  
Seattle, WA

Re: Request to avoid further China import promotion through duty deferral

Dear President Trump:

The Coalition for a Prosperous America (CPA) appreciates your efforts to craft a trade policy that rebuilds the US economy rather than offshores it.

We write, however, to express our concern about the Secretary of the Treasury and US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) decision to postpone duties on many imports for 90 days – including textiles. Our manufacturing members are fighting for US market share every day, and even more so during the COVID-19 crisis, when customers are not buying goods. Deferring tariffs will increase imports and make it harder for our member companies to avoid laying off employees.

We are pleased to see that anti-dumping, countervailing duties, Section 232, 201, and 301 duties will remain in place. But there are many domestic companies, especially those in import-sensitive industries, that will be hurt.

Parkdale Mills is one example. It is an American manufacturing success story and the largest textile manufacturer in the western hemisphere. Parkdale Mills, with over 5500 employees, has come to the defense of our country by switching its production to face masks, isolation gowns, and swabs for test kits. Parkdale's orders have fallen off during the pandemic and the company is ineligible for the CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program because of its total number of employees.

Parkdale's employees, and textile workers across the country, have benefited from general tariff protection of 15-40% against low-wage foreign competition and trade cheating. However, a postponement of duty collection benefits Asian countries and companies while hurting our members like Parkdale Mills.

Other CPA members make automotive parts, ventilator parts, and glassware. Tariff deferrals benefit foreign competitors even as our members fight to retain their employees.

We know this crisis started in Wuhan, China. We know the Communist Party of

China hid the virus from the world and from your administration. To now reward a cheap and below-market flood of Chinese imports only adds salt to the wounds of America's workers.

Our manufacturing members are rising to the occasion. Two weeks ago, we sent you a list of 600 domestic manufacturers that are ready, willing, and able to produce needed COVID response items. Many others are now working day and night to assist in this response effort. Let's ensure they're supported first, and let's not reward the Communist Party of China or below-market-value imports of textiles.

As you continue to reopen the economy, we ask that no further import duty deferral or forgiveness be issued as a COVID remedy. We also ask that greater efforts be made to protect import-sensitive domestic industries from a flood of imports that reduce US employment.

Sincerely,



Daniel DiMicco, Chairman



Michael Stumo, CEO

CC: Department of Commerce, Secretary Wilbur Ross  
Department of the Treasury, Secretary Steven Mnuchin  
White House Office of Trade and Manufacturing Policy, Director Peter Navarro  
White House Director of National Economic Council, Larry Kudlow  
White House Director of Domestic Policy Council, Joe Grogan  
United States Trade Representative, Ambassador Robert Lighthizer