



June 20, 2018

Support U.S. Consumers, Workers and Businesses Co-Sponsor Trade Bill (S. 177/H.R. 5281)

Dear Senator/Representative:

Trade is pivotal to the U.S. economy, contributing to job creation, higher wages, and consumer choice. Trade serves as a catalyst for growth and opportunity.

Conversely, barriers to trade inflict severe economic harms on American workers, consumers, and businesses. New tariffs levied or proposed recently against commonly used consumer goods will increase costs and most harm those who can least afford it. Some Americans are already feeling the effect:

- An Indiana trailer manufacturer is grappling with rising prices for steel and aluminum, which have surged up to 25 percent and 35 percent, respectively.¹
- A Michigan auto parts manufacturer fears tariffs could wipe out the company.²
- Minnesota farmers have scrambled to find new customers as China reportedly avoided U.S. soybeans in retaliation to trade measures.³
- Ohio factory workers worry about the effects retaliatory tariffs will have on washing machine production.⁴

Tariffs have extensive direct – if unintended – consequences on the American people, and it is vital that Congress give tariffs the close scrutiny they deserve. Thus, we urge you to support the Global Trade Accountability Act (S. 177 / H.R. 5281). By restoring congressional authority to review and approve tariffs, this legislation would help achieve an appropriate and measured balance between the legislative and executive branches in consideration of these important policies.

Congress must revisit its delegation of tariff authorities to the executive branch. This legislation would restore to Congress some of the authority granted to it under Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution that, “Congress shall have Power ...To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations.”

By almost any measure, our economy is strong. Unemployment is at record-lows. The stock market is at record-highs. With new reforms to our tax code and regulatory environment, opportunity to grow our

¹ [“This company in Indiana is already feeling the heat from Trump’s new tariffs,”](#) CNBC, March 30, 2018

² [“Small Business Owner Fears U.S.-China Trade War Will Destroy Her Company,”](#) NPR, May 18, 2018

³ [“Signs China tariffs are starting to hurt U.S. businesses, wallets,”](#) CBS Moneywatch, May 9, 2018

⁴ [“Trump’s tariffs are already backfiring,”](#) *The Washington Post*, June 15, 2018

economy even further abounds. Breaking down barriers to trade is paramount to that effort, and we urge you to co-sponsor this legislation.

Sincerely,

Brent Gardner

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The LIBRE Initiative

Americans for Prosperity is a non-profit, non-partisan, grassroots organization which educates, recruits and mobilizes citizens in support of the policies and goals of a free society at the local, state, and federal level, helping every American live their dream – especially the least fortunate. Grassroots activists share a common vision for an America where truly free markets allow for a free and prosperous people and they work to educate friends, neighbors, and public officials on the issues shaping the American economy and building a culture of freedom.

Freedom Partners Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit, non-partisan, chamber of commerce, representing a diverse group of local leaders, dedicated citizens and successful entrepreneurs, many of whom have achieved the American Dream from very modest beginnings. All supporters share a deep commitment to America, promoting free enterprise, effective fiscal, monetary and tax policies, efficient and effective policies that promote and protect hardworking taxpayers, and genuine accountability in government.

The LIBRE Initiative is a non-profit, non-partisan, grassroots organization that advances the principles and values of a free and open society to empower the U.S. Hispanic community so it can thrive and contribute to a more prosperous America. LIBRE is dedicated to informing the U.S. Hispanic community about the benefits of a constitutionally limited government, property rights, rule of law, sound money supply and free enterprise through a variety of community events, research and policy initiatives that protect our free and open society.