October 30, 2026

The Honorable Jamieson Greer
United States Trade Representative
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

RE: Request to Extend Suspension of the Section 301 China-Built Vessel Fees

Dear Ambassador Greer:

On behalf of the undersigned maritime transportation stakeholders—including importers, exporters, retailers, manufacturers, agriculture groups, logistics providers, and other users of the international freight transportation system—we strongly support the two-month extension of the suspension of the Section 301 vessel fees related to China's targeting of the maritime, logistics, and shipbuilding sectors. We appreciate the extension to January 9, 2027 as a result of the summit between President Trump and President Xi. We call upon USTR and the administration to permanently suspend the fees to provide certainty to the global supply chain.

We continue to appreciate USTR's efforts to address longstanding concerns regarding unfair practices affecting the maritime, logistics, and shipbuilding sectors. Strengthening U.S. maritime capacity and resilience is an important national objective. At the same time, imposing new or resumed fees on China-built or China-linked vessels would create immediate and far-reaching consequences for U.S. companies that rely on ocean transportation to move goods into and out of the United States.

U.S. supply chains continue to face significant pressure. Importers, exporters, retailers, manufacturers, and agricultural producers are contending with elevated transportation costs, shifting carrier capacity, equipment availability challenges, port and inland network constraints, and broader uncertainty in global trade lanes. Many businesses are still working through higher costs for ocean freight, trucking, warehousing, insurance, and inventory management. These costs compound quickly and are ultimately borne by U.S. businesses, workers, farmers, and consumers.

Resuming the Section 301 vessel fees in Jan. 2027 would add another cost layer to an already strained transportation system. Because China-built vessels represent a meaningful share of global ocean carrier capacity, the practical effect of the Section 301 vessel fees would not be limited to a narrow set of market participants. Instead, the costs would ripple across shipping networks, affect vessel deployment decisions, and increase uncertainty for businesses that have limited ability to control the ownership, operation, or construction history of the vessels used to transport their goods. We also remain concerned that the Annex III RoRo vessel provisions extend beyond China to affect carriers from allied nations, and we welcome USTR's careful consideration of the resulting impacts on U.S. manufacturers and exporters.

A further delay or permanent suspension would benefit both importers and exporters. For importers, it would help avoid new transportation surcharges that increase landed costs, disrupt purchasing decisions, and place additional pressure on prices for consumer goods, inputs, and components. For exporters, including agricultural producers and manufacturers, avoiding new fees would help preserve reliable and cost-effective access to foreign markets, reduce the risk of retaliatory or reciprocal measures, and support the competitiveness of U.S.-origin goods abroad.

In addition, while the suspension has been in place for nearly a year, it has also demonstrated that vessel fees alone are not a strategy for rebuilding the U.S. shipbuilding industry. The underlying challenges that contributed to China's dominance, including limited domestic shipbuilding capacity, workforce constraints, and a lack of competitive alternatives, remain. Extending the suspension would provide additional time for policymakers to pursue durable solutions that strengthen U.S. maritime competitiveness without increasing costs for American businesses, exporters, and consumers. It would also provide USTR additional time to continue negotiations with China, coordinate with allies and partners, and pursue policies that expand U.S. shipbuilding and maritime capabilities without imposing near-term costs on American freight users. A durable solution should strengthen domestic maritime capacity while preserving the reliable, affordable transportation services that U.S. companies need to compete in global markets.

Accordingly, we support the decision to extend the suspension for an additional two months, but respectfully request that USTR consider a further extension or permanent suspension of the Section 301 vessel fees. Doing so would provide needed certainty to the maritime transportation system, protect U.S. importers and exporters from avoidable cost increases, and support continued progress toward stronger, more resilient supply chains.

We continue to urge USTR and the administration to evaluate the true needs to support the revitalization of the domestic shipbuilding industry. There continues to be a need for a dedicated strategy with sustained investments, leadership and a long-term commitment from both the public and private sectors to revitalize the domestic industry, without the need of a port fee on Chinese-built vessels that were purchased years ago.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with USTR to advance policies that strengthen U.S. maritime competitiveness while supporting the businesses, workers, farmers, and consumers that depend on reliable international transportation.

Sincerely,

Accessories Council
Agribusiness Association of Kentucky
Agribusiness Council of Indiana
Agricultural Retailers Association
Agriculture Transportation Coalition (AgTC)
Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute
Airforwarders Association
Alliance for Chemical Distribution
Amcot
American Apparel & Footwear Association
American Association of Port Authorities
American Association of Exporters and Importers
American Bakers Association
American Bridal and Prom Industry Assoc
American Chemistry Council

American Clean Power Association
American Cleaning Institute
American Cotton Shippers Association
American Down and Feather Council
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Frozen Food Institute
American Fuel & Petrochemical Manufacturers
American Hardwood Export Council
American Logistics Association
American Pet Products Association
American Pistachio Growers
American Pyrotechnics Association
American Road & Transportation Builders Association
American Soybean Association
American Spice Trade Association
American Trucking Associations
AmericanHort
Arkansas Soybean Association
Associated Builders and Contractors
Associated Equipment Distributors
Association of Bi-State Motor Carriers
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Association of Food Industries
Association of North Dakota Agribusiness
Association of Ship Brokers & Agents USA (ASBA)
Auto Care Association
Baby Safety Alliance
Big River Coalition, LLC
Boston Custom Brokers & Freight Association
California Bean Shippers Association
California Building Industry Association
California Chamber of Commerce
California Retailers Association
California Trucking Association
California Walnut Commission
CAWA - Representing the Automotive Parts Industry
Center for LNG
Chamber of Shipping of America
Chicago Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association
Coalition of New England Companies for Trade (CONECT)
Columbia River Pilots
Columbia River Steamship Operators' Association
Commercial Real Estate Development Association, Inland Empire Chapter
Commercial Real Estate Development Association of Southern California (CREDA SoCal)
Connecticut Retail Network
Consumer Brands Association
Consumer Technology Association (CTA)
Corn Refiners Association
Council of Fashion Designers of America
Entertainment Software Association
Exhibition Services & Contractors Association (ESCA)
Exhibitions & Conferences Alliance
Experiential Designers & Producers Association
Fashion Accessories Shippers Association
Florida Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association
Footwear Distributors & Retailers of America (FDRA)
Foreign Trade Association
Gemini Shippers Association
Global Business Alliance
Grain and Feed Association of Illinois
Greenabl Shippers Association
Green Coffee Association, Inc.
Greeting Card Association
Growth Energy
Halloween & Costume Association
Hawaii Transportation Association
Harbor Trucking Association
Heating, Air-conditioning, & Refrigeration Distributors International
Home Fashion Products Association
Household & Commercial Products Association
Houston Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders Association (HCBFFA)
Idaho Retailers Association
IFFCBANO (Int'l Freight Forwarders & Customs Brokers Association of New Orleans)
Illinois Retail Merchants Association
Illinois Soybean Association
Indiana Corn Growers Association
Indiana Soybean Alliance
Industrial Fasteners Institute
Institute of Makers of Explosives
Intermodal Association of North America
Intermodal Motor Carriers Conference

International Association of Exhibitions & Events
International Chamber of Shipping
International Dairy Foods Association
International Fresh Produce Association
International Housewares Association
International Housewares Shippers Association
International Warehouse Logistics Association (IWLA)
International Wood Products Association
Iowa Retail Federation
Iowa Soybean Association
Kansas Association of Wheat Growers
Kansas Grain and Feed Association
Kansas Soybean Association
Kentucky Retail Federation
Kentucky Soybean Association
Leather and Hide Council of America
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles Customs Broker's & Freight Forwarder's Association (LACBFFA)
Laredo Licensed U.S. Customs Brokers Association, Inc.
Lone Star Agribusiness Association
Louisiana Maritime Association
Maple Flooring Manufacturers Association
Marine Exchange of Puget Sound
Maritime Association of the Port of NY/NJ
Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay
Maritime Fire and Safety Association
Maryland Retailers Alliance
Meat Institute
Merchants Exchange of Portland
MI - The Global Methanol Alliance
Michigan Agri-Business Association
Mid-Valley Customs Brokers Association
Minnesota Grain and Feed Association
Minnesota Retailers
Minnesota Soybean Growers Association
Mississippi Soybean Association
Missouri Retailers Association
Montana Grain Growers Association
Montana Mining Association
Montana Retail Association
Motorcycle Industry Council
National Alfalfa & Forage Alliance
National Asphalt Pavement Association
National Association of Beverage Importers (NABI)
National Association of Foreign-Trade Zones (NAFTZ)
National Association of Manufacturers
National Association of Maritime Organizations (NAMO)
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Association of Wine Retailers
National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors
National Confectioners Association
National Cotton Council
National Corn Growers Association
National Council of Chain Restaurants
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of America (NCBFAA)
National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC)
National Grain and Feed Association
National Industrial Transportation League
National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association
National Milk Producers Federation
National Mining Association
National Oilseed Processors Association
National Pork Producers Council
National Retail Federation
National Seafood Association
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association
National Turkey Federation
NC Agribusiness Council
NCBFAA Shippers Association
Nebraska Soybean Association
New Jersey Retail Merchants Association
New Orleans Board of Trade
New York New Jersey Foreign Freight Forwarders and Brokers Association
New York Corn & Soybean Growers Association
North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers (NAFEM)
North American Export Grain Association
North American Millers' Association
North American Renderers Association
North Carolina Retail Merchants Association
North Dakota Soybean Growers Association
North Texas Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Assoc
Northwest Horticultural Council

Ohio AgriBusiness Association
Ohio Council of Retail Merchants
Ohio Soybean Association
Outdoor Industry Association
Outdoor Power Equipment Institute
Pacific Northwest Asia Shippers Association
Pacific Northwest Asia Shippers Association
Pacific Northwest Waterways Association
Peanut and Tree Nut Processors Association
Pennsylvania Coal Alliance
Pennsylvania Retailers Association
Performance Racing Industry (PRI)
Personal Care Products Council
Pet Food Institute
Plumbing Manufacturers International
PRINTING United Alliance
Promotional Products Association International
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association
Recycled Materials Association
Renewable Fuels Association
Retail Council of New York State
Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA)
Retailers Association of Massachusetts
Shippers Coalition
Snowsports Industries Association
Society of Independent Show Organizers (SISO)
South Dakota Agri-Business Association
South Dakota Association of Cooperatives
Southwest Meat Association
Soy Transportation Coalition
Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA)
Specialty Vehicle Institute of America
Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA)
Supply Chain Federation
Tennessee Soybean Association
Texas Ag Industries Association
Texas Grain & Feed Association
Texas International Produce Association
The Business Council of New York State
The Cleaning Equipment Trade Association
The Fashion Jewelry and Accessories Trade Association
The Fertilizer Institute
The Hardwood Federation
The Maritime Exchange for the Delaware River and Bay
The Sulphur Institute
Toy Shippers Association
Travel Goods Association
U.S. Apple Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Dairy Export Council
U.S. Fashion Industry Association
U.S. Grains & BioProducts Council
U.S. Meat Export Federation
United States Council for International Business (USCIB)
US-China Business Council
US Identity Preserved Alliance
USA Poultry & Egg Export
USA Pulses
USA Pulses Trade Association
Virginia Agribusiness Council
Virginia Farm Bureau Federation
Virginia Soybean Association
Washington Association of Wheat Growers
We Pay the Tariffs
Western Hardwood Association
Wine and Spirits Shippers Association
Wisconsin Retailers Alliance
World Shipping Council
Wyoming Ag Business Association
Wyoming Mining Association
Wyoming Wheat Growers Association