



June 5, 2019

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

Dear Mr. President,

Our organizations — which often have divergent approaches to trade policy — are coming together to urge you to refrain from imposing tariffs on U.S. imports from Mexico.

We stand united in our firm conviction that additional tariffs are not an effective way to address the immigration and border crisis. In fact, given the way in which duty-free access has fostered economic opportunities south of our border — thus reducing immigration pressures — we believe any move to increase tariffs will ultimately lead to increased immigration into the United States.

Even more importantly, raising tariffs on U.S. imports from Mexico will hurt U.S. workers. Currently, hundreds of thousands of American workers are deployed in production and other key value chains that depend on the North American trade partnership with Mexico, which is the market for half of all U.S. textile exports.

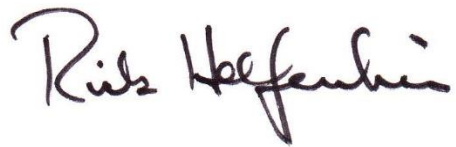
Every day, we export U.S. yarns and fabrics to Mexico, where they are assembled into garments and incorporated into other products to be imported back into the United States. There has been significant investment in U.S. production, design, distribution, and retail for this industry to support these critical supply chains. An army of U.S. workers — cotton farmers, yarn spinners, fabric weavers, truck drivers, designers, textile scientists, software engineers, logistics experts, compliance professionals, customs brokers, sales clerks, and more — depends on Mexico's duty-free access to the U.S. market for their jobs. These individuals are employed across the United States and they, in turn, support families and communities throughout the country.

Maintaining and growing this duty-free partnership is why we support immediate Congressional approval of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). Our organizations were among the first to endorse this agreement, and we have remained steadfast in our advocacy to see it approved. The recently announced tariff plan on Mexico, however, throws those efforts into limbo as our members are forced to re-evaluate the prognosis for this critically important agreement. New tariffs imposed by the U.S. and the likelihood that Mexico would retaliate cause uncertainty surrounding the future of this important partnership at a time when our members had been planning to re-commit to and grow our North American production and

value chains. Duty-free access provided by both NAFTA and USMCA — and the integrated supply chains between the United States and Mexico — keeps the entire Western Hemisphere textile and apparel industries competitive relative to other regions.

Mr. President, we urge you to support the hundreds of thousands of American workers in the North American textile and apparel production and value chain — and to minimize increased immigration pressures — by not imposing new tariffs on U.S. imports from Mexico.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Rick Helfenbein in black ink.

Rick Helfenbein  
President and CEO  
American Apparel & Footwear Association

Handwritten signature of Kim Glas in blue ink.

Kim Glas  
President and CEO  
National Council of Textile Organizations