



September 27, 2021

The Honorable Katherine Tai
United States Trade Representative
600 17th St. NW
Washington, DC 20508

Re: Request for Comments on Certain Products Exclusions Related to COVID-19: China's Acts, Policies, and Practices Related to Technology Transfer, Intellectual Property, and Innovation

Dear Ambassador Tai:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in response to the Federal Register Notice (Docket No. USTR-2021-18521) on whether to extend particular product exclusions from Section 301 tariffs on imports from China related to COVID-19 past September 30, 2021.

The National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC) welcomes USTR's additional review of its Section 301 tariffs in light of the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the rapidly spreading Delta variant. It is critical that the Biden Administration extend tariff exclusions for all products needed to combat the pandemic to protect American workers, businesses and consumers. We urge USTR to issue a blanket extension on any and all products needed to fight the pandemic.

We also urge USTR to immediately reinstate the Section 301 tariff exclusion process and consider revising the existing procedures to provide for a more fair and transparent process. U.S. businesses are facing unprecedented challenges securing medical supplies and other COVID-19 related products abroad due to extremely constrained supply chains as well as domestically due to constant production delays and the rising costs of transportation. The exclusion process provides some relief to the affected industries during a time when the U.S. continues to struggle with the effects of the pandemic.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We believe it is critical that the Administration act swiftly to remove these costs from products that can help the American people continue to fight this pandemic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jake Colvin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "J" and "C".

Jake Colvin
National Foreign Trade Council

National Foreign Trade Council
1625 K Street NW Suite 200 • Washington, DC 20006 • 202-887-0278

Serving America's Global Businesses Since 1914.

www.nftc.org