

September 23, 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 respectfully urge the Office of the United States Trade Representative to extend the current suspension of the Section 301 vessel fees related to China’s targeting of the maritime, logistics, and shipbuilding sectors. USTR suspended these fees for one year beginning November 10, 2025, following the agreement with China announced last November, with the suspension currently scheduled to expire on November 9, 2026. We strongly urge the administration to extend the suspension once again during the summit between President Trump and President Xi.

We 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 at this time 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 tariffs and 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.

A further delay 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 respectfully request that USTR extend the delay of the Section 301 vessel fees before the current suspension expires. 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 need to be 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,

Agribusiness Association of Kentucky  
Agribusiness Council of Indiana  
Agricultural Retailers Association  
Agriculture Transportation Coalition (AgTC)  
Airforwarders Association  
Alliance for Chemical Distribution  
Amcot  
American Apparel & Footwear Association  
American Association of Port Authorities

American Association of Exporters and Importers  
American Bridal and Prom Industry Assoc  
American Chemistry Council  
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 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 Forwarders 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  
 Cleaning Equipment Trade Association  
 Coalition of New England Companies for Trade (CONNECT)  
 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  
 Council of Fashion Designers of America  
 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)  
 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  
 Illinois Retail Merchants Association  
 Illinois Soybean Association  
 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)  
 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  
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 Fire and Safety Association  
Maryland Retailers Alliance  
Meat Institute  
Merchants Exchange of Portland  
Michigan Agri-Business Association  
Mid-Valley Customs Brokers Association  
Minnesota Grain and Feed Association  
Minnesota Retailers  
Minnesota Soybean Growers Association  
Missouri Retailers Association  
Montana Grain Growers Association  
National Asphalt Pavement Association  
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 Carolina Retail Merchants Association  
North Dakota Soybean Growers Association  
North Texas Customs Brokers and Freight  
Forwarders Assoc  
Northwest Horticultural Council  
Ohio AgriBusiness Association  
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)  
Pet Food Institute  
Plumbing Manufacturers International  
Promotional Products Association International  
Recycled Materials Association  
Retail Council of New York State  
Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA)  
Retailers Association of Massachusetts  
South Dakota Agri-Business Association  
Southwest Meat Association  
Soy Transportation Coalition  
Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA)

Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA)  
Supply Chain Federation  
Tennessee Soybean Association  
Texas Grain & Feed Association  
Texas International Produce 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  
New Jersey Retail Merchants 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)  
USA Pulses  
USA Pulses Trade Association  
Washington Association of Wheat Growers  
We Pay the Tariffs  
Wine and Spirits Shippers Association  
Wisconsin Retailers Alliance  
World Shipping Council  
Wyoming Ag Business Association  
Wyoming Mining Association  
Wyoming Wheat Growers Association