Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515
October 15, 2018

The Honorable Robert E. Lighthizer
United States Trade Representative
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

We write today to urge you to establish a process that allows U.S. companies to request an exclusion from the recent tariffs imposed on $200 billion of Chinese imports pursuant to the investigation into China’s unfair trade practices under Section 301, consistent with those for the previous two Section 301 tariff lists. Such a process would afford U.S. companies the opportunity to seek relief if tariffs harm their global competitiveness and would help target the effects of the tariffs on China rather than on U.S. companies and their customers.

There can be no doubt that China has engaged in unfair trade practices, particularly when it comes to technology transfer, intellectual property, and innovation, as your March 2018 report made clear. We were encouraged that your office took a transparent and deliberative approach in developing the three lists of tariffs, including a notice and comment period and public hearings. We also appreciated that an exclusion process was set up to further refine the first two lists. However, the lack of such a process for this most recent list is a glaring omission, particularly given its size in relation to the first two lists.

An exclusion process is vital to ensuring that U.S. companies can seek relief in the event that there are no alternative suppliers or if other special circumstances exist that could harm their ability to compete in the global marketplace. The process should be fact-based, with criteria specified in the Federal Register for companies to meet to qualify for an exclusion. Such a meaningful process would allow U.S. companies to evaluate whether they meet the criteria and should devote resources to seeking exclusions.

We thank you for your thoughtful approach as you have refined the three lists of tariffs on Chinese imports under Section 301. An exclusion process has been an integral part of that approach for the first two lists and must be a part of the recently-announced third list as well.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress

Ron Kind
Member of Congress
ANN WAGNER
Member of Congress

FRED UPTON
Member of Congress

WARREN DAVIDSON
Member of Congress

ROB WOODALL
Member of Congress

DAVE TROTT
Member of Congress

GUS M. BILIRAKIS
Member of Congress

DAVID P. JOYCE
Member of Congress

PETE SESSIONS
Member of Congress

DAVID G. VALADAO
Member of Congress

SUSAN W. BROOKS
Member of Congress

DOUGJAMALFA
Member of Congress

DAN NEWHOUSE
Member of Congress

MIMI WALTERS
Member of Congress

JULIA BROWNLEY
Member of Congress

BRAD WENSTRUP
Member of Congress

ANN MCLANE KUSTER
Member of Congress
TOM MACARTHUR
Member of Congress

MARK SANFORD
Member of Congress

SCOTT DESJARLAIS
Member of Congress

KYRSTEN SINEMA
Member of Congress

BARBARA COMSTOCK
Member of Congress

TED POE
Member of Congress

KEVIN CRAMER
Member of Congress

LEE ZELDIN
Member of Congress

LARRY BUCSHON, M.D.
Member of Congress

GLENN GROTHMAN
Member of Congress

CATHY MC MORRIS RODGERS
Member of Congress

JEFF DUNCAN
Member of Congress

DAVID YOUNG
Member of Congress

MARK MEADOWS
Member of Congress

DIANE BLACK
Member of Congress

DON BACON
Member of Congress
DAVID P. ROE, M.D.
Member of Congress

ERIK PAULSEN
Member of Congress

ANNA G. ESHOO
Member of Congress

BRADLEY BYRNE
Member of Congress

F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.
Member of Congress

EDWARD R. ROYCE
Member of Congress

BILL HUIZenga
Member of Congress

JENNIFER GONZALEZ-COLON
Member of Congress

TOM MCCLINTOCK
Member of Congress

SAM JOHNSON
Member of Congress

PAUL MITCHELL
Member of Congress

JAMES P. MCGOVERN
Member of Congress

PETE OLSON
Member of Congress

EARL L. "BUDDY" CARTER
Member of Congress

STEVE CHABOT
Member of Congress

PETE AGUILAR
Member of Congress