



Travel Goods Association
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July 25, 2018

The Honorable Robert Lighthizer
U.S. Trade Representative
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
Executive Office of the President
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006

RE: Request to Testify at August 20-23 Hearings Concerning Proposed Determination of Action Pursuant to Section 301: China's Acts, Policies, and Practices Related to Technology Transfer, Intellectual Property, and Innovation, Docket Number: USTR-2018-0026

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

I am writing to request an opportunity to testify on behalf of the Travel Goods Association (TGA) at the August 20-23 hearing on the Proposed Determination of Action Pursuant to Section 301 regarding China's Acts, Policies, and Practices Related to Technology Transfer, Intellectual Property, and Innovation.

TGA is the international organization for the travel goods industry. Members include manufacturers, distributors, retailers, promoters, sales representatives, and suppliers of luggage and travel products, casual bags, briefcases and computer bags, and business and travel accessories for travelers.

Travel goods are defined as luggage, handbags, backpacks, briefcases, wallets, smart phone cases, and related fashion accessories.

TGA strongly opposes the inclusion of travel goods, listed in Annex A, on the proposed \$200 billion list. A new punitive tariff on U.S. imports of travel goods from China, on top of the already high tariffs U.S. business and U.S. consumers already pay on these products, would impose a huge, hidden tax on U.S. consumers, particularly since China accounts for more than 84 percent of U.S. imports of these products, and virtually none of these products are currently made in the United States.

We support the Administration's efforts to improve the protection of intellectual property rights in China, but we don't believe tariffs on consumer goods will achieve this goal.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. Please contact me at nate@travel-goods.org or 202.853.9351 if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nate Herman', with a long, sweeping underline.

Nate Herman
Director of Government Relations
Travel Goods Association (TGA)

Attachment: Annex A

Attachment A

Items that TGA Would Like Removed from the List Published in the Federal Register (83 FR 33608) on July 17, 2018.

- All travel goods, classified in HTS heading 4202
- All articles of bamboo, straw, rattan, willow, and wicker (including luggage, handbags, flat goods) classified in HTS heading 4602