

March 7, 2025

President Donald J. Trump

The White House

1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

We are writing as members of the Coalition to Close the De Minimis Loophole, representing a wide range of American voices and millions of people committed to ending the *de minimis* crisis, including manufacturers, business associations, labor unions, law enforcement, drug prevention organizations, consumer groups, and others.

We write to ask you to reimpose your proposed ban on duty-free *de minimis* treatment for goods from China and to use your existing executive authority granted to the president by Congress in the Tariff Act of 1930 to end *de minimis* for all commercial shipments from all countries.

The ongoing, widespread exploitation of the *de minimis* loophole is causing significant harm to Americans nationwide. It is flooding the United States with forced labor and tariff-dodging products that unfairly undermine American workers and producers. With four million *de minimis* shipments now arriving here daily, traffickers of fentanyl and its precursor chemicals, and those seeking to smuggle other illicit goods poisoning our communities, are increasingly using this trade loophole to get their deadly wares into our country through a flood of largely uninspected *de minimis* shipments.

The *de minimis* rule allows goods worth \$800 or less per person per day to enter the United States duty-free and virtually uninspected, bypassing traditional customs entry procedures and data requirements. This program, originally intended for use by tourists bringing back souvenirs from abroad, today is exploited by conglomerates and

mass retailers to ship counterfeit clothing and medicines, unsafe baby products and toys, knock-off auto parts, goods made with forced labor and other problematic items directly to consumers' homes, undercutting domestic manufacturers and retailers and millions of Americans who make and sell goods here.

As you know, this is a growing problem. Huge online companies now use the *de minimis* loophole to ship over a billion packages a year into the United States with a cumulative value of nearly \$65 billion, up from 139 million packages annually in FY2015. Companies like Shein and Temu heavily exploit the *de minimis* provision and contribute to approximately 30 percent of all *de minimis* shipments.

De minimis shipments from China enter the United States duty-free and avoid tariffs imposed as a result of trade and national security actions, such as the Section 301 China tariffs, which aim to address unreasonable or discriminatory policies or practices that burden or restrict U.S. commerce. Most apparel shipments from China, for example, would be subject to higher duties and Section 301 tariffs if they did not enter the United States under the *de minimis* exemption. The evasion of these tariffs means billions of dollars of lost revenue for the U.S. Treasury.

Companies like Shein, Temu and others have been accused of using forced labor cotton from Xinjiang in goods that, but for *de minimis*, would be blocked from entering the United States. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is overwhelmed by the daily *de minimis* shipment volume, which challenges the agency's ability to effectively enforce the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act. This rise in *de minimis* shipments has likewise caused textile plant closures and the destruction of other good-paying jobs and businesses across the United States.

On top of that, drug cartels and other criminals are increasingly using *de minimis* to smuggle fentanyl, precursor chemicals, pill presses and other illicit materials from countries like China into the United States, knowing that most packages will not be inspected. Individuals who place online orders for pain killers and other medications have also unknowingly received uninspected, fentanyl-contaminated pills sent directly to their homes in *de minimis* shipments from abroad — sometimes with deadly consequences. The use of *de minimis* for smuggling is an issue that's been repeatedly raised by CPB officials, as well as by 13 Republican state attorneys general in a letter to the former president over a year ago.

To protect U.S. jobs, uphold the rule of law, end tariff evasion, and shut down fentanyl smuggling, we urge you to use your existing executive authority to take the following actions:

1. End commercial *de minimis* shipments from all countries so the flood of packages and illicit goods coming into the U.S. under *de minimis* does not simply shift from one location to another. We note that Chinese online retailers already have begun to investigate how to shift their operations to Vietnam and other countries since your administration initially banned *de minimis* shipments from China.
2. Require all imported goods be accompanied by the necessary information for both tariff collection and effective inspection, ensuring that shipments can no longer evade customs reporting and inspections. This can be accomplished by requiring the 10-digit HTS codes, the product's country of origin, a manufacturer ID, product description, and the weight and value for all foreign shipments into the United States, including low-value packages and by significantly increasing penalties for non-compliant actors.
3. Implement common-sense customs enforcement standards to ensure compliance so that package volumes at ports of entry do not exceed CBP's ability to properly screen imports and enforce the law. New binding guidelines must mandate that low-value packages are not routed through lightly staffed, smaller ports of entry and instead are diverted to designated large-volume trade ports of entry with appropriate staffing levels. Further steps should be taken to limit cargo traffic at all ports relative to CBP's staffing capabilities, and to limit the number of low-value packages that can be processed per shift (e.g., no more than 1,000 per CBP officer per shift).

4. Make the end of de minimis permanent so that the *de minimis* trade loophole is ended once and for all.

The only way to enable effective control of goods entering the United States is to close the loophole to commercial shipments across the board.

Our coalition looks forward to being a resource to you and your administration on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Achieve Greatness

Alliance for American Manufacturing (AAM)

AFL-CIO

American Elastic

American Fashion Network (AFN)

American Woolen

Citizens Trade Campaign (CTC)

Coalition for a Prosperous America (CPA)

Darling Fibers

Erik's Bike Shop

Families Against Fentanyl (FAF)

Facing Fentanyl

Fentanyl Victims Network of North Carolina

Kelsie's Cause

Lost Voices of Fentanyl

National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO)
National Bike Dealers Association (NBDA)
National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC)
National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO)
People for Bikes
Public Citizen
Remake
Reshoring Initiative
Rethink Trade
Shatterproof
Sherrill MFG
Specialized Bikes
United Against Fentanyl
United States Footwear Manufacturers Association (USFMA)
United Steelworkers (USW)
Uyghur American Association
Uyghur Human Rights Project (UHRP)
Voices for Awareness
Victims of Illicit Drugs (VOID)