



Alliance for Fair Trade with India

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**U.S. Business Community Urges President Obama to Address India's Discriminatory Trade Practices with Prime Minister Singh**

Eighteen Business Organizations Sign Letter Urging Action during Prime Minister Singh's Upcoming Visit

**WASHINGTON, D.C., September 26, 2013** – Today 18 business organizations sent a [letter](#) to U.S. President Barack Obama urging him to address India's discriminatory trade barriers and weak intellectual property (IP) protection during his meeting with India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Friday.

"India's discriminatory trade policies put American businesses at a disadvantage, place manufacturing jobs at risk, and jeopardize India's ability to grow its economy," said AFTI co-chair and National Association of Manufacturers Vice President of International Economic Affairs Linda Dempsey. "The business community, elected officials, and the administration are united in their concern with these protectionist policies. We urge President Obama to seek immediate and concrete solutions that can lead to growth in the American and Indian economies alike."

In the letter, the organizations highlight India's harmful trade policies which include a failure to protect IP rights, forced local production of certain information technology and clean energy equipment, and revocations of patents and compulsory licenses for innovative medicines. These unfair policies are designed to benefit a few Indian corporations at the expense of manufacturing and jobs in the United States and other countries around the world.

"In the last 18 months, India has consistently failed to recognize international intellectual property rights, hindering India's path to an innovative and knowledge-based economy," said Mark Elliot, co-chair of AFTI and executive vice president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Global Intellectual Property Center. "During his meeting with Prime

Minister Singh, President Obama has the opportunity to promote a trade environment that fosters innovation and creativity, creates high-quality jobs, and advances global economic development.”

The organizations’ letter adds to the growing chorus of widespread, bipartisan calls for action. Also this week, a bipartisan group of governors highlighted the impact India’s unfair trade practices have on jobs in states across the U.S. in a letter to President Obama. Additionally, more than 170 U.S. Representatives and 40 U.S. Senators expressed concern with a trade environment in India that puts American jobs and industries at risk in [letters](#) to the administration earlier this year.

Business organizations signing the letter are: American Business Conference (ABC), American Foundry Society (AFS), Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM), Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), California Manufacturers & Technology Association, CropLife America, Emergency Committee for American Trade (ECAT), INDA, Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry, Information Technology Industry Council (ITI), Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA), National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC), Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA), Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), and the U. S. Chamber of Commerce.

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*The Alliance for Fair Trade with India (AFTI) is committed to supporting U.S. businesses fighting against unfair and discriminatory treatment in India. For more information, go to [AFTIndia.org](http://AFTIndia.org).*