



Alliance for Fair Trade with India

November 24, 2014

The Honorable Michael Froman
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Froman:

The Alliance for Fair Trade with India (“AFTI”) appreciates the hard work you have done engaging with the Government of India to improve the U.S.-India trade relationship. In particular, we applaud your successes in resolving the impasse with India on the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement and restarting the U.S.-India Trade Policy Forum after a four-year hiatus.

For the Trade Policy Forum to be meaningful, however, it must ultimately lead to concrete steps to improve the environment for businesses in the United States that are exporting to and operating in India. These concrete steps should include measures to address any number of pressing concerns, including prohibitively high tariffs and discriminatory forced localization requirements that are blocking U.S. exports of a wide range of products; increased tariffs and burdensome testing and safety requirements on information and communication technology products; the use and threatened use of compulsory licensing on biopharmaceutical products as a tool of industrial policy to promote domestic Indian champions, and measures in Indian law that add an onerous and unnecessary additional criterion for the patentability of medicines; and the need for robust and enforceable copyrights for U.S. and Indian creators alike, because India, like the United States, is a major producer of music, films, and literature, and its social and cultural interests in fostering creativity are fully aligned with those of the United States.

As you noted when announcing the intention to restart the Trade Policy Forum, the purpose of the Forum is to “to deepen our trade and investment relationship and help achieve the potential of our strategic partnership.” Indeed, the potential of our partnership and the stakes for businesses and workers in the United States are simply too high for meetings like the Trade Policy Forum to serve simply as stocktaking exercises or forums for discussion. We will be responsible, influential world powers together only when both governments, through their actions, treat each other’s exports and products fairly.

Thank you again for your commitment to create jobs in the United States by improving market access in India. We stand ready to work with you, your staff, and your counterparts in

India's Ministry of Commerce and Industry to build a deeper and more reciprocal commercial relationship.

Sincerely,

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
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)
Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)
U.S. Chamber of Commerce