



Alliance for Fair Trade with India

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AFTI to President Obama: Meeting with Prime Minister Modi Must Focus on Ways to Improve the Business Environment for U.S. Companies In India

Business Organizations Sign Letter Urging President Obama and Prime Minister Modi to Focus on Trade Reforms in India to Spur Innovation and Draw Investment

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 25, 2015 –The Alliance for Fair Trade with India (AFTI) sent a letter today urging President Barack Obama to address concrete policies India should implement to provide legal and regulatory certainty for U.S. companies seeking to invest in the market during his meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi next week.

“India’s high tariffs, use of forced localization barriers, and weak intellectual property protection and enforcement are not only thwarting manufacturers’ access to India, but denying Indian citizens and companies access to best-in-class products,” said AFTI co-chair and National Association of Manufacturers vice president of international economic affairs Linda Dempsey. “In order to boost foreign investment and create a thriving and innovative economy, we are hoping that India will embrace international standards and ease the counterproductive and harmful trade burdens that hurt both U.S. businesses and India’s ability to attract high levels of investment.”

In the [letter](#), U.S. business and manufacturing groups welcome the renewed focus on high level commercial dialogues with the goal of creating a mutually beneficial U.S.-India economic relationship. They note that implementation of trade reforms will boost India’s long-term economic growth and foster market access for American innovators, exporters, and investors.

“American innovative companies are encouraged by the discussion of necessary policy changes to enhance intellectual property rights and enforcement in India,” said Patrick Kilbride, co-chair of AFTI and executive director for international IP policy at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s Global Intellectual Property Center. “We look forward to continued dialogue between these leaders to allow both countries to capitalize on the opportunity for mutual growth and innovation.”

A copy of the full letter can be found on the AFTI website [here](#).

AFTI members signing the letter are:

American Business Conference (ABC)

American Foundry Society (AFS)

Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)

Biotechnology Industry Association (BIO)

California Manufacturers & Technology Association (CMTA)

CropLife America

Distilled Spirits Council of the United States (DISCUS)

Emergency Committee for American Trade (ECAT)

INDA, Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry

National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)

National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)

National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC)

Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA)

Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA)

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.