



Alliance for Fair Trade with India

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AFTI Comments on United States and India Trade Policy Forum

WASHINGTON, D.C., November 2, 2015 –The Alliance for Fair Trade with India (AFTI) released the following statement today regarding the conclusion of the United States and India Trade Policy Forum:

“AFTI appreciates the hard work of the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative in engaging the Indian government in the Trade Policy Forum on behalf of the many U.S. farmers, workers, and business who are struggling with barriers to doing business in and exporting to India. Dialogues such as the Trade Policy Forum and last month’s Strategic and Commercial Dialogue can be critical tools in the effort to find resolution to longstanding concerns.

To be meaningful, however, these dialogues must be more than simply a forum to talk and exchange views. They must result in concrete action to improve the business and investment climate in India. To date, these dialogues have offered far more talk than action. Last week’s Trade Policy Forum is unfortunately no exception.

While AFTI is disappointed in this missed opportunity, it is India itself that is hurt the most. In a highly competitive global economy, the lack of substantive reforms and movement toward world-class regulatory and IP standards only serves to hinder India’s aspirations to rise as a globally-competitive country. Only substantive reforms will advance the Modi government’s efforts to promote ‘Make in India’, attract high value-added foreign direct investment, and move up the economic value chain.

AFTI will continue to work with USTR and policymakers from both countries toward policies in India that will break down barriers to trade and investment and strengthen the intellectual property and innovation environment to promote growth for U.S. and Indian businesses alike.”

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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 www.AFTIndia.org.