



Alliance for Fair Trade with India

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**Businesses Urge President Obama, Congress to Prioritize
Commercial Issues in Upcoming Meetings with Prime Minister Modi**

Letters Outline Need for Concrete Action and Improved Trade Environment in India

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 24, 2016– In advance of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to the United States in early June, business organizations representing thousands of companies and millions of U.S. workers from virtually every sector of the economy sent letters to [President Barack Obama](#) and [Congressional leaders](#) urging advancement of discussions and concrete action to produce a stronger U.S.-India commercial relationship.

In the letters, the business organizations noted that, “A strong and vibrant U.S.-India relationship is beneficial not only to our two countries, but also to greater growth and opportunity throughout the world. We share the confidence that Prime Minister Modi expressed during President Obama’s visit to India in January 2015 that ‘continued bilateral collaboration will increase opportunities for investment, improve bilateral trade and investment ties and lead to the creation of jobs and prosperity in both economies.’ ”

However, businesses expressed concern that “the high hopes and positive rhetoric that accompanied the beginning of [Prime Minister Modi’s] tenure have yet to be translated into concrete measures to improve the business environment for U.S. workers and companies operating in and exporting to India.”

While India has taken a few concrete steps, such as some investment openings and fostering more competition for investment among states, persistent issues remain, such as forced localization barriers, high tariffs as well as new tariff increases, longstanding IP challenges, new foreign investment barriers and proposed bans on FDI, and a number of other bureaucratic obstacles.

The letters also reiterated that, “Prime Minister Modi’s visit presents an opportunity to discuss and resolve many of these important commercial matters that are limiting

India's own trade engagement and growth. Such progress must be the foundation for further expansion of the U.S.-India relationship.”

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

Business organizations signing the letter are: American Business Conference (ABC), Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM), American Foundry Society (AFS), Biotechnology Industry Organization (BIO), CropLife America, Distilled Spirits Council of the U.S., Inc. (DISCUS), 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), Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), Semiconductor Industry Association (SIA), Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA), United States Council for International Business (USCIB), 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.