

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 6, 2020

The Honorable David Johanson
Chairman
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20436

Dear Chairman Johanson:

Our nation is currently facing an urgent public health crisis on a scale that we have not encountered in over a century. As we grapple with the challenges presented by the novel coronavirus, we are keenly aware that our challenges are being severely exacerbated by disruptions and deficiencies in our supply of equipment, inputs, and substances needed for treating and otherwise responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In light of the urgency of our nation's needs, as the Chairs of the House Committee on Ways and Means and the Senate Committee on Finance, the committees with jurisdiction over international trade, we are writing today to request that the U.S. International Trade Commission (Commission) conduct an investigation and prepare a report under section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930 that identifies products that may be needed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On March 20, 2020, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) established a process to receive and consider comments for provisional modifications to tariffs imposed on goods that may assist in the public health and clinical response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In view of the Commission's knowledge in trade and tariff matters, we ask that the Commission provide a report to the Committees and the USTR that identifies imported goods related to the response to COVID-19, their source countries, tariff classifications, and applicable rates of duty so as to assist the Committees and USTR in proposing or taking appropriate and responsive actions.

For each product that the Commission so identifies, we ask that the Commission provide:

- (1) the 10-digit HTS code for the article;
- (2) its legal description;
- (3) general duty rate;
- (4) any special or additional rates of duty imposed on the article, the dates on which the rates were imposed, and the authorities under which they were imposed;

- (5) whether any such duties have been suspended and, if so, the date of suspension as well as how long the suspension is scheduled to last;
- (6) the total rate of duty imposed on such article, including any special or additional rate of duty; and
- (7) the major countries of origin for each such article, and the import value of each such article from each country for the years 2017-2019.

To the extent practical, we ask that the electronic version of this report be provided in a format that allows the information to be sorted by the fields listed above. Please also include a “plain English” description or examples of products that fall within the identified HTS codes and citations to sources consulted in identifying the products.

Given the acute nature of the circumstances, we request that the Commission deliver its report as soon as possible, but no later than April 30, 2020. As we intend to make the report available to the public, please do not include confidential business information. Given that the COVID-19 pandemic is rapidly changing, we request that the Commission provide any relevant updated data runs on its website through June 30, 2020.

Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Richard E. Neal
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means



Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on Finance