PETE SESSIONS
32ND DISTRICT, TEXAS

CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMITTEE ON
FINANCIAL SERVICES
(ON LEAVE)

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

2233 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515–4332
TELEPHONE: 202.225.2231
FAX: 202.225.5878

LAKESIDE SQUARE
12377 MERIT DRIVE
SUITE 750
DALLAS, TEXAS 75251–2224
TELEPHONE: 972.392.0505
FAX: 972.392.0615
sessions.house.gov

August 29, 2018

The Honorable Robert E. Lighthizer
United States Trade Representative
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20508-0001

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

I write to express my concerns over the expanded use of the Section 301 investigation process to implement additional tariffs on U.S. imports. Specifically, implementing a 10 to 25 percent tariff on approximately 200 billion dollars in goods will not only directly and significantly harm U.S. businesses, but I believe it also does not adequately or appropriately solve the problem of China's unfair and unlawful trade practices.

I recently had the pleasure of meeting with employees and leadership from Fossil Group, an American fashion designer and manufacturer founded and based in Richardson, Texas. With over $2.6 billion in global sales, 180 U.S. retail stores, and almost 5,000 U.S. employees, the company has recently expanded into a rapidly growing wearable technology watch market with investments in research and development and the hiring of additional employees.

In your proposed list of U.S. goods imported from China that could be subjected to additional tariffs, you included wearable technology watches. If these items are included in the final list of tariffs, U.S. companies such as Fossil will face higher costs and be forced to downsize their operations. Simply put, because of these misguided tariffs, many North Texans in my district could lose their jobs.

As I have stated in the past, I strongly support President Trump's goal of addressing unlawful Chinese trade and currency practices. I also recognize Congress has delegated the power to regulate commerce through tariffs and import restrictions. However, should these tariffs or potential retaliatory actions prove to be a net negative to the main street small businesses and American companies that drive our economy, please know that I will work with my colleagues to reassert Congress' authority and oversight capability on trade actions.

As you continue to work on trade and tariff policy recommendations, I urge you to strongly consider the unforeseen and potentially negative consequences that tariffs could have on our growing economy. Thank you again for your attention to this important matter and please do not hesitate to reach out if there is anything additional I can provide.

Sincerely,

Pete Sessions
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Commerce

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