



May 27, 2021

Chairman Richard Neal  
House Ways and Means Committee  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 205515

Chairman Ron Wyden  
Senate Finance Committee  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Ranking Member Kevin Brady  
House Ways and Means Committee  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Michael Crapo  
Senate Finance Committee  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Neal and Chairman Wyden and Ranking Member Brady and Ranking Member Crapo:

On behalf of Outdoor Industry Association (OIA), I am writing to follow up on my March 23 letter to commend the introduction of legislation by Chairman Wyden supporting a seven-year renewal of the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) as well as additional criteria for GSP beneficiary countries.

As I wrote previously, GSP has been incredibly useful for outdoor companies as they seek to diversify their supply chains out of China, particularly for travel goods such as backpacks and sports bags, which were added to the program by Congress in 2015. Duty savings for travel goods under GSP has helped our industry lower costs, create U.S. jobs, and develop new products. A longer-term extension provides much-needed stability as outdoor companies make critical sourcing decisions to grow their businesses.

We also support the addition of new eligibility criteria for participating countries that is consistent with our industry's values. OIA believes that, as we look to enhance the requirements for GSP countries to participate in the program, we should also add product coverage that will incentivize these partners to live up to the new requirements and remain in the program.

To that end, we urge you to add non-sensitive footwear that has been vetted with the domestic industry – such as trail running shoes, hiking boots, and hiking shoes – to the program. Footwear faces some of the highest tariffs of all consumer products, and footwear production remains concentrated in China (U.S. imports were \$8 billion in 2020), as was travel goods prior to being added to GSP. Adding select footwear to GSP will be a powerful incentive for investment outside of China and enable brands to diversify their sourcing options. It will also help compel GSP beneficiary countries, as well as those that have been suspended from the program, to comply with the new GSP criteria, a win-win for U.S. foreign policy and economic goals.

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ASSOCIATION

Thank you again for your consideration, and we look forward to working with the Committees and others in Congress to achieve these important objectives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lise Aangeenbrug', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lise Aangeenbrug  
Executive Director  
Outdoor Industry Association

CC:  
The Honorable Katherine Tai  
United States Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, DC 20508