

## Where We Stand

### Outdoor Industry Association's position on the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP)

**March 2016**

The outdoor industry is dependent on international trade to bring their innovative products to retail markets in the United States and around the world. From manufacturers who make their products here in the U.S., to those that utilize global value chains, outdoor companies are the leading producers of performance textiles, apparel, footwear and equipment. Their growth and success is closely tied to U.S. federal trade policy that promotes a stable and predictable environment, while seeking to lower costs for outdoor businesses and their customers.

Through international trade, the outdoor industry is also able to share our values of social and environmental responsibility with people in the U.S. and around the world by promoting stewardship of our land, air and water through outdoor activities, industry tools and best practices and through the products themselves.

Outdoor products, however, are among the most highly taxed when entering the U.S. While tariffs on imports average less than 3 percent, tariffs on outdoor products average 14 percent or higher, with some as high as 40 percent.

Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) seeks to lower these high costs through our International Trade Program and our advocacy in Washington, D.C. We are guided in this work by our "balanced trade" policy, meaning that we only seek tariff elimination on outdoor products that have no domestic production, and for those products that are Made-in-America, we advocate for federal policies that support U.S. manufacturers and help them transition to competition in a global economy.

As such, OIA supports the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the most comprehensive free trade agreement in U.S. history that covers 40 percent of global gross domestic product (GDP) and more than 800 million people.

The TPP is consistent with our balanced trade policy, reflects our industry's values of social and environmental responsibility and will provide significant and meaningful commercial benefits to outdoor companies.

By lowering costs on outdoor apparel, footwear and equipment, the TPP will promote innovation, create more American jobs, and will make outdoor products more affordable for more people, while raising standards on labor rights and protection of the environment.

In addition to lowering costs, TPP will provide reciprocal market access for U.S.-made outdoor products, breaking down trade barriers and opening new export markets in the Asia-Pacific region.

Further, the TPP's labor and environmental provisions are the strongest standards of any U.S. free trade agreement yet and should be fully enforced by all parties.

We also believe that the U.S. government has an obligation to support American workers who are displaced by our trade policy, including the TPP, through retraining and other continuing education opportunities.

We recognize that some of our members and partners believe these provisions do not go far enough. We will continue the dialogue on these matters and find common ground to advance our shared interests. Once TPP is enacted, we look forward to working to ensure that all TPP partners implement their labor and environmental commitments and the U.S. takes a leadership role in ensuring that they are fully enforced. Our companies and consumers would expect no less.