



June 23, 2023

Chairman Ron Wyden  
Senate Finance Committee  
219 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Building Washington, DC 20510

Chairman Jason Smith  
House Ways and Means Committee  
1139 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Mike Crapo  
Senate Finance Committee  
Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Richard Neal  
House Ways and Means Committee 219  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Smith and Wyden and Ranking Members Crapo and Neal,

On behalf of the outdoor recreation economy and outdoorists across the country, we urge you to support the prompt retroactive renewal of two key trade programs expired since the end of 2020: the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB). Inaction has significantly inhibited the ability of our members to do what they do best: create U.S. jobs and develop new, innovative outdoor products to enhance the outdoor experience.

Whether traversing our country’s waterways by boat, our public lands on foot, RVing or motorcycling to and from America’s favorite destinations, or training for such adventures – we share one common goal – recreating, together, in the great outdoors. Our industry accounts for 4.5 million American jobs (a 13.1% increase since 2020), and 862 billion (\$173 billion more than the previous year) in gross economic output.

We are disappointed by Congress’ delay in reauthorizing GSP and MTB during such a critical time when the benefits of these programs are most needed. Their retroactive renewal is also an opportunity to show the American people that a divided government can effectively come together to reinstate trade programs that have historically passed with nearly unanimous bipartisan support.

GSP serves the dual purpose of helping our members continue to diversify their supply chains and help developing countries such as the Philippines and Indonesia grow and enhance the quality of life for their people. Furthermore, the program is directly responsible for the migration of nearly \$6 billion of trade and a 19-percentage point gain of market share of U.S. travel goods imports from China to GSP beneficiary countries from 2016 to its expiration at the end of 2020. With the long-term expiration of GSP and uncertainty around its renewal, many outdoor companies, however, have been compelled to move sourcing back to China.

The recent growth of the outdoor industry occurred amid an unprecedentedly complicated economic



climate caused by ongoing supply chain chaos, exorbitant transportation costs and inflationary pressures. However, growth in many segments is slowing and inventories are quickly building. Reinstatement of GSP, along with sensible modifications to complement the additional country eligibility criteria Congress is likely to add, are enormously important to the outdoor industry and other segments of the economy.

Similarly, MTBs provide companies with temporary duty savings on products – both inputs and finished goods – after undergoing a rigorous vetting process by Commerce and U.S. Customs and Border Protection to ensure that there is no competing domestic product. Our members typically use this savings to lower costs and reinvest in their U.S. operations, specifically towards their workforce or research and development of innovative technical product improvements. These benefits can also help member companies diversify their supply chains away from China.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, more Americans got outdoors, some for the first time, to enjoy the physical and mental health benefits of outdoor recreation. Action on these two key trade programs will help our businesses thrive and continue to support the growth of new generations of outdoorists.

We appreciate your attention to our letter, and we look forward to working with you to swiftly advance retroactive renewal of GSP and MTB.

Sincerely,

- American Sportfishing Association
- American Trails
- Archery Trade Association
- Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education
- International Snowmobile Manufacturers Association
- Marine Retailers Association of the Americas
- Motorcycle Industry Council
- National Marine Manufacturers Association
- National RV Dealers Association
- National Ski Areas Association
- Outdoor Industry Association
- Outdoor Recreation Roundtable Association
- PeopleForBikes
- Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association
- RV Industry Association
- Snowsports Industries America
- Specialty Vehicle Institute of America
- Sports and Fitness Industry Association