EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

MAR 28 2016

The Honorable Meredith Broadbent
Chairman
United States International Trade Commission
500 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20436

Dear Chairman Broadbent:

On February 24, 2016, the President signed the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (the Act) into law. Among other provisions, the Act authorizes the President to provide preferential treatment to certain articles (66 eight-digit textile and apparel tariff lines) from Nepal. The Act requires the President to determine whether these articles are import-sensitive when imported from Nepal, after receiving advice from the United States International Trade Commission ("USITC").

Therefore, under authority delegated to me and in accordance with sections 503(a)(1)(A), 503(e), and 131(a) of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended ("the 1974 Act"), I hereby notify the Commission that the articles identified in Table A of the enclosed Annex are being considered for designation as eligible articles for purposes of the Act.

I request that the Commission provide its advice as to whether these articles are import-sensitive in the context of imports from Nepal. This advice should include the probable economic effect on total U.S. imports, on U.S. industries producing like or directly competitive articles, and on U.S. consumers of the elimination of U.S. import duties on the articles in Table A for Nepal.

To the extent possible, I would appreciate it if the probable economic effect advice, as well as U.S. import data, and to the extent available, U.S. export data is provided separately and individually for each U.S. Harmonized Tariff Schedule subheading for all products subject to this request.

In accordance with USTR policy on implementing Executive Order 13526, as amended, I direct you to mark or identify as "Confidential," for a period of ten years, such portions of the Commission's report and its working papers that contain the Commission's advice and assessment of probable economic effects on domestic industries producing like or directly competitive articles, on U.S. imports, and on U.S. consumers. Consistent with the Executive Order, this information is being classified on the basis that it concerns economic matters relating to the national security. In addition, USTR considers the Commission's report to be an inter-agency memorandum that will contain pre-decisional advice and be subject to the deliberative process privilege.

I request that you submit an outline of this report as soon as possible to enable USTR officials to provide you with further guidance on its classification, including the extent to which portions of the report will require classification and for how long. Based on this outline, an

appropriate USTR official will provide you with written instructions. All confidential business information contained in the report should also be clearly identified.

I would greatly appreciate if the requested advice, including those portions indicated as "Confidential" be provided to my Office by no later than six months from receipt of this letter. Once the Commission's confidential report is provided to my Office, and we review and approve the classification marking, the Commission should issue, as soon as possible thereafter, a public version of the report containing only the unclassified information, with any confidential business information deleted.

The Commission's assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Michael Froman

Ambassador Michael B. G. Froman

ANNEX

Products are listed by Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (HTS) subheadings. The product descriptions in this list are for informational purposes only; the definitive tariff nomenclature for the products listed below can be found in the HTS. The descriptions below are not intended to delimit in any way the scope of the relevant subheadings. The HTS may be viewed at http://www.usitc.gov/tata/hts/bychapter/index.htm

Table A: Products being considered for designation as eligible products for Nepal

HTS Subheading	Brief Description
4202.11.00	Trunks, suitcases, vanity & all other cases, occupational luggage & like containers, surface of leather, composition or patent leather
4202.12.20	Trunks, suitcases, vanity and attaché cases, occupational luggage and similar containers, with outer surface of plastics
4202.12.40	Trunks, suitcases, vanity & attaché cases, occupational luggage & like containers, surfaces of cotton, not of pile or tufted construction
4202.12.60	Trunks, suitcases, vanity & attaché cases, occupational luggage & like containers, w outer surface of veg. fibers, excl. cotton
4202.12.80	Trunks, suitcases, vanity & attaché cases, occupational luggage and similar containers, with outer surface of textile materials nesi
4202.21.60	Handbags, with or without shoulder strap or without handle, with outer surface of leather, composition or patent leather, nesi, n/o $ ea.
4202.21.90	Handbags, with or without shoulder strap or without handle, with outer surface of leather, composition or patent leather, nesi, over $ ea.
4202.22.15	Handbags, with or without shoulder straps or without handle, with outer surface of sheeting of plastics
4202.22.40	Handbags with or without shoulder strap or without handle, with outer surface of textile materials, wholly or in part of braid, nesi
4202.22.45	Handbags with or without shoulder strap or without handle, with outer surface of cotton, not of pile or tufted construction or braid
4202.22.60	Handbags with or w/o shoulder strap or w/o handle, outer surface of veg. fibers, exc. cotton, not of pile or tufted construction or braid
4202.22.70	Handbags with or w/o shoulder strap or w/o handle, with outer surface containing % or more of silk, not braided
4202.22.80	Handbags with or without shoulder strap or without handle, with outer surface of textile materials, nesi
4202.29.50	Handbags w. or w/o shld. strap or w/o handle of mat. (o/t leather, shtng. of plas., tex. mat., vul. fib. or paperbd.), pap.cov.,of mat. nesi
4202.29.90	Handbags with or without shoulder straps or without handle, with outer surface of vulcanized fiber or of paperboard, not covered with paper

HTS Subheading	Brief Description
4202.31.60	Articles of a kind normally carried in the pocket or handbag, with outer surface of leather, composition or patent leather, nesi
4202.32.40	Articles of a kind normally carried in the pocket or handbag, with outer surface of cotton, not of pile or tufted construction
4202.32.80	Articles of a kind normally carried in the pocket or handbag, with outer surface of vegetable fibers, not of pile or tufted construction, nesi
4202.32.95	Articles of a kind normally carried in the pocket or handbag, with outer surface of textile materials, nesi
4202.91.00	Cases, bags and containers nesi, with outer surface of leather, of composition leather or patent leather
4202.92.08	Insulated food or beverage bags with outer surface of textile materials, nesoi
4202.92.15	Travel, sports and similar bags with outer surface of cotton, not of pile or tufted construction
4202.92.20	Travel, sports and similar bags with outer surface of vegetable fibers, excl. cotton, not of pile construction
4202.92.30	Travel, sports and similar bags with outer surface of textile materials other than of vegetable fibers
4202.92.45	Travel, sports and similar bags with outer surface of plastic sheeting
4202.92.60	Bags, cases and similar containers, nesi, with outer surface of cotton
4202.92.90	Bags, cases and similar containers nesi, with outer surface of plastic sheeting or of textile materials, excl. cotton
4202.99.90	Cases, bags and similar containers, nesi, with outer surface of vulcanized fiber or of paperboard
4203.29.50	Gloves, mittens and mitts of leather or composition leather, nesi, lined, for persons other than men
5701.10.90	Carpets and other textile floor coverings, of wool or fine animal hair, not hand-hooked, not hand knotted during weaving
5702.31.20	Carpets and other textile floor coverings of pile construction, woven, not tufted or flocked, not made up, of wool/fine animal hair, nesoi
5702.49.20	Carpets & other textile floor coverings of pile construction, woven, not tufted or flocked, made up, of other textile materials nesoi
5702.50.40	Carpets & other textile floor coverings, not of pile construction, woven, not made up, of wool or fine animal hair, nesoi
5702.50.59	Carpets & other textile floor coverings, not of pile construction, woven, not made up, of other textile materials nesoi
5702.91.30	Floor coverings, not of pile construction, woven not on power-driven loom, made up, of wool or fine animal hair, nesi
5702.91.40	Carpets & other textile floor coverings, not of pile construction, woven nesoi, made up, of wool or fine animal hair, nesoi
5702.92.90	Carpet & other textile floor coverings, not of pile construction, woven, made up, of man-made textile materials, nesi
5702.99.15	Carpets and other textile floor coverings, not of pile construction, woven, made up, of cotton, nesoi
5703.10.20	Hand-hooked carpets and other textile floor coverings, tufted, whether or not made up, of wool or fine animal hair

HTS Subheading	Brief Description
5703.10.80	Carpets and other textile floor coverings, tufted, whether or not made up, of wool or fine animal hair, nesoi
5703.90.00	Carpets and other textile floor coverings, tufted, whether or not made up, of other textile materials nesoi
5705.00.20	Carpets and other textile floor coverings, whether or not made up, nesoi
6117.10.60	Shawls, scarves, mufflers, mantillas, veils and the like, nesoi
6117.80.85	Headbands, ponytail holders & similar articles, of textile materials other than containing % or more by weight of silk, knitted/crocheted
6214.10.10	Shawls, scarves, mufflers, mantillas, veils and the like, not knitted or crocheted, containing % or more silk or silk waste
6214.10.20	Shawls, scarves, mufflers, mantillas, veils and the like, not knitted or crocheted, containing less than % silk or silk waste
6214.20.00	Shawls, scarves, mufflers, mantillas, veils and the like, not knitted or crocheted, of wool or fine animal hair
6214.40.00	Shawls, scarves, mufflers, mantillas, veils and the like, not knitted or crocheted, of artificial fibers
6214.90.00	Shawls, scarves, mufflers, mantillas, veils and the like, not knitted or crocheted, of textile materials nesoi
6216.00.80	Gloves, mittens and mitts, not knitted or crocheted, of wool or fine animal hair, nesoi
6217.10.85	Headbands, ponytail holders and similar articles, of textile materials containing < % by weight of silk, not knit/crochet
6301.90.00	Blankets and traveling rugs, nesoi
6308.00.00	Needlecraft sets for making up into rugs, etc., consist of woven fabric and yarn, whether/not w/accessories, put up packings for retail sale
6504.00.90	Hats and headgear, plaited or assembled from strips of any material (o/than veg. fibers/unspun fibrous veg. materials and/or paper yarn)
6505.00.08	Hats and headgear made from hat forms and hat bodies of , except of fur felt
6505.00.15	Hats and headgear, of cotton and/or flax, knitted
6505.00.20	Headwear, of cotton, not knitted; certified hand-loomed and folklore hats & headgear, of cotton or flax, not knitted
6505.00.25	Hats and headgear, of cotton or flax, not knitted, not certified hand-loomed folklore goods
6505.00.30	Hats and headgear, of wool, knitted or crocheted or made up from knitted or crocheted fabric
6505.00.40	Hats and headgear, of wool, made up from felt or of textile material, not knitted or crocheted or made up from knitted or crocheted fabric
6505.00.50	Hats and headgear, of man-made fibers, knitted or crocheted or made up from knitted or crocheted fabric, wholly or in part of braid
6505.00.60	Hats and headgear, of man-made fibers, knitted or crocheted or made up from knitted or crocheted fabrics, not in part of braid
6505.00.80	Hats and headgear, of man-made fibers, made up from felt or of textile material, not knitted or crocheted, not in part of braid
6505.00.90	Hats and headgear, of textile materials (other than of cotton, flax, wool or man-made fibers), nesoi
6506.99.30	Headgear, nesoi, of furskin, whether or not lined or trimmed

HTS Subheading	**Brief Description**
6506.99.60	Headgear (other than safety headgear), nesoi, of materials other than rubber, plastics, or furskins, whether or not lined or trimmed