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COMMISSION

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U.S. INT'L TRADE
COMMISSION

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 13, 2020

The Honorable Jason E. Kearns
Chairman
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20436

Dear Chairman Kearns:

In response to a request made by the House Committee on Ways and Means and Senate Committee on Finance on April 6, 2020, the U.S. International Trade Commission (Commission) conducted an expedited investigation, No. 332-576, *COVID-19 Related Goods, U.S. Imports and Tariffs*, and produced a report that identified goods related to treating and otherwise responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. The report also identified the goods' source countries, tariff classifications, and applicable duty rates. The Commission's timely release of that report on May 4, 2020, as well as the follow-up report that it released on June 30, 2020, provided the Committees and USTR with an objective assessment of facts to inform critical policymaking decisions.

In light of the Commission's recent investigation and report, the ongoing pandemic, and the persistent challenges in meeting supply for these critical products, we are writing today to request that the Commission conduct a follow-on investigation and prepare a report under section 332(g) of the Tariff Act of 1930. The report should build on the earlier investigation and report by providing more detailed information on COVID-related industry sectors and particular products identified in the Commission's previous report.

Specifically, we seek information on the following:

- A brief overview of key U.S. industry sectors producing COVID-related goods, including, but not limited to, medical devices; personal protective equipment; and medicines (pharmaceuticals). These overviews should include, to the extent practicable, information on U.S. production, employment, and trade.

- More detailed case studies on key products within each relevant industry sector, such as N95 respirators, ventilators, vaccines, and COVID-19 test kits. We are particularly interested in case studies on products for which there were reported shortages in the first half of 2020, including those affected by supply chain fragility, blockages, or barriers. The case studies should draw upon all available information including the relevant literature, and to the extent practicable, should include information on:

- The U.S. industry, market, and trade, including, to the extent available:
  - An overview of the product, including key components and the production process;
  - Information on the size and characteristics of the U.S. market;
  - An overview of the U.S. manufacturing industry, including key producers of finished goods and intermediate inputs, the extent of U.S. production, and employment;
  - Information on U.S. imports of finished goods and inputs, including leading source countries and supplying firms (to the extent available) ; and

- Information on supply chain challenges and constraints, including, but not limited to:
  - Information on factors affecting domestic production, including, to the extent practicable, regulatory requirements that may impact entry into the market.
  - Information on foreign trade barriers and restrictions and other factors that may affect U.S. imports of finished goods or inputs needed for domestic production.

We request that the Commission deliver its report no later than December 15, 2020. As we intend to make the report available to the public, the report should not include confidential business information. Your assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Neal
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means

Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Committee on Finance

Kevin Brady
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means