



### **AAEI Statement on “Liberation Day” and Tariffs**

The American Association of Exporters and Importers (AAEI) was founded over 100 years ago based on the goal of making trade easier for U.S. importers and exporters. AAEI recognizes that today’s tariffs represent a novel approach to create greater balance in U.S. trade relationships and overall fair-trade practices. These tariffs will compel importers and exporters to reimagine their supply chains. However, it is imperative that we move from an environment where known risks outweigh the opportunities for balanced trade. We encourage the Administration to carefully watch how these tariffs are impacting inflation expectations and specifically how goods are sourced. Due process and policy reviews are imperative.

For those U.S. businesses who cannot source or manufacturer within the U.S., the Administration should provide an avenue for these companies to receive exceptions and exclusions. For each tranche of tariffs in 2019-20, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) established a process by which importers could communicate how the tariffs are impacting their business and request a temporary exclusion of products subject to the action. These exclusions were granted for a limited time and with few exceptions, which allowed companies to continue to meet their business needs, grow their U.S. business, and retain U.S. jobs. AAEI has urged the USTR to restore a transparent and effective exclusions process for emergencies and investigatory tariffs.

AAEI has also requested that the USTR work with U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to take a deliberative and transparent approach to tariff implementation, including ensuring that CBP’s trade system, the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE), has the funding and capability to facilitate new tariff regimes.

Finally, AAEI urges the Administration to cooperate with U.S. trading partners to advance towards the settlement of trade disputes. AAEI will continue to work with the Administration, government agencies, and Congress to provide technical guidance on tariff implementation and encourage the pursuit of cooperative trade relationships that advance open markets and strengthen economic growth.

### **About AAEI**

For over 100 years, AAEI has served as a prominent national voice for the United States' international trade community. AAEI proudly represents a diverse range of industry sectors within the global trade landscape, comprising manufacturers, importers, exporters, wholesalers, retailers, and various service providers such as customs brokers, freight forwarders, trade advisors, insurers, security providers, transportation interests and ports. Many of its members are small businesses seeking opportunities to export to foreign markets, while the larger entities help to fuel the economy through their supply chains. As the premier U.S. international trade organization, AAEI is recognized for its expertise in the day-to-day facilitation of trade, including the administration and compliance with import and export laws of the United States, making it an indispensable resource for those directly involved in and impacted by developments in international trade.

AAEI works with the White House, government agencies, and Congress to provide technical guidance on trade policy implementation and encourages the pursuit of cooperative trade relationships that advance open markets and strengthen economic growth. Learn more at [www.aaei.org](http://www.aaei.org)