

International Trade

AAPA is the unified voice of the seaport industry in the United States (U.S.), representing 78 geographically diverse public port authorities. Maritime trade is the most environmentally friendly and cost-efficient form of moving goods and people. U.S. seaports deliver vital goods to consumers, enable U.S. exports, create jobs, facilitate tourism, and support economic growth, making AAPA's member ports the gatekeepers of the U.S. economy.

1. Free, Fair, and Rational Trade is great for Americans and American businesses.

Free, fair, and rational trade makes the U.S. stronger and more prosperous. Our member ports oversee 90% of international trade and employ over 650,000 Americans.¹ Seaport gateways continue to support American businesses, jobs, and economic activity through the free and fair trade that they facilitate. Barriers to trade harm everyone because they increase costs on American businesses and decrease access to goods and export markets. *AAPA supports free-flowing trade that gives Americans access to foods, medicine, and household goods while at the same time allowing Made in America products to travel around the world. Organizations like the World Trade Organization make sure everyone follows the rules that the United States wrote.*

2. Eliminate Tariffs That Artificially Suppress Trade and Raise Prices for American Consumers.

Tariffs are taxes on American consumers. Recent trade wars have resulted in over \$50 billion in economic losses for Americans. These taxes cause disruptions in complex supply- and value-chains. Ports are key hubs in these chains and are directly impacted by the \$40 billion export loss as a result of the trade war with China.² According to the Tax Foundation, the current trade wars have cost 179,800 full-time jobs in the U.S.³ The policies of alienating our trading partners and turning away from global consumer markets—80% of which are outside America—need to end. *AAPA supports eliminating tariffs that impose costs on American consumers and cause retaliation on American exporters.*

3. Expand Trade Deals That Increase Foreign Market Access and Benefit American Consumers.

The Biden Administration should expand trade deals with the UK, Europe, and Africa that would benefit American consumers and benefit American influence. The direct impact on American workers is undeniable - nearly 39 million American jobs are dependent on international trade.⁴ An Environmental Goods Agreements would ensure that any new environmental taxes would not also accidentally harm beneficial trade. *AAPA supports trade partnerships that promote security, economic prosperity, and cooperation.*

¹ Ana Monteiro, "Counting the Costs of Trump's Tariffs on the U.S. Economy" *Bloomberg News* (Jul. 13, 2020) (<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/newsletters/2020-07-13/supply-chains-latest-counting-u-s-tariff-costs>).

² Shawn Donnan and Jordan Yadoo, "China Trade War Cost Tops \$40 Billion in U.S. Exports" *Bloomberg Law* (Feb. 28, 2019) (<https://news.bloomberglaw.com/international-trade/china-trade-war-cost-tops-40-billion-in-u-s-exports-correct-1>).

³ Erica York, "Tracking the Economic Impact of U.S. Tariffs and Retaliatory Actions" *Tax Foundation* (Feb. 14, 2020) (<https://taxfoundation.org/tariffs-trump-trade-war/>).

⁴ US Chamber of Commerce, "The Benefits of International Trade" *Issues* (Last visited Aug. 4, 2020) (<https://www.uschamber.com/international/international-policy/benefits-international-trade>).