

April 7, 2025

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
511 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
135 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for the Trade Review Act of 2025

Dear Senator Cantwell and Senator Grassley,

On behalf of the National Retail Federation, I am writing today in strong support for the “Trade Review Act of 2025” (S. 1272). We believe it is imperative for Congress to assert its constitutional authority in trade policy, especially the imposition of tariffs on our trading partners.

NRF, the world’s largest retail trade association, passionately advocates for the people, brands, policies and ideas that help retail succeed. NRF empowers the industry that powers the economy. Retail is the nation’s largest private-sector employer, contributing \$5.3 trillion to annual GDP and supporting one in four U.S. jobs — 55 million working Americans. For over a century, NRF has been a voice for every retailer and every retail job, educating, inspiring and communicating the powerful impact retail has on local communities and global economies.

We agree with the need to address ongoing unfair trade issues with our trading partners. However, as required by Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution, it is Congress which has the power to enact tariffs and regulate commerce with foreign nations. While Congress has provided authority to the president to take certain actions in the event of severe national emergencies, we do not believe the “reciprocal” tariffs that have been announced can or should be done without consideration by Congress.

The Trade Review Act of 2025 will provide Congress with the opportunity to review and vote on whether to keep announced tariff actions in place. Requiring an explanation as well as an assessment of the tariff actions from the administration is critical. We have seen that the recently announced “reciprocal” tariffs will have a significant negative impact on businesses, especially small retailers. One estimate indicates these tariffs could lead to a \$2,100 tax increase per household. The increased tariffs are not sustainable for small businesses that have to pay the tax. Many are concerned about their ability to stay in business as a result.

We applaud you for introducing such important legislation to reassert Congress’s role in setting trade and tariff policy. We strongly urge the Senate to quickly support and pass the bill. If you have any questions, please contact myself or Jonathan Gold, NRF’s Vice President for Supply Chain and Customs Policy (goldj@nrf.com).

Sincerely,



David French
Executive Vice President, Government Relations