



July 2, 2019

Robert Lighthizer
United States Trade Representative
600 17th St NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Lighthizer:

The Dental Trade Alliance (DTA) is an association of companies that provide dental equipment, supplies, materials and services to dentists and oral care professionals. We write to inform you of our opposition to the recent proposed tariffs published by the United States Trade Representative. We also write to ask you to immediately remove any and all equipment relating to the dental products from the Section 301 list.

The 25% additional tariff that has been proposed would be disastrous for our companies and for the patients receiving oral care. It would greatly increase the cost of necessary supplies for our companies, which would then increase the cost of services for patients. Americans already pay roughly \$124 billion a year for dental care, and this tariff would cause a dramatic increase in this cost. A large percentage of that amount is paid out of pocket by US patients and not covered or reimbursed by their health insurance.

The number one financial worry for the average American is the cost of health care and dental care. Even without the tariffs, Americans still struggle to afford treatment. If the tariffs were to go into effect, costs would skyrocket, and many Americans would be forced to go without the medical and dental care they need. This would endanger the health of millions of people and would further increase costs for the country. When it is too expensive for patients to visit a doctor or oral care professional, they are often forced to wait until it is so severe that they must go to the emergency room. This ends up costing the country, and it would only worsen if the proposed tariffs are implemented.

On behalf of all oral care manufacturers and the patients we serve, DTA asks you to end consideration of the proposed tariffs. The only result will be the public paying significantly more for necessary services. Please contact Patrick Cooney at (202) 347-0034 x101 or via email at patrick@federalgrp.com if you have questions regarding this correspondence.

Sincerely,

Gary W. Price
President and CEO