



March 18, 2025

Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Subject: America First – Lift Tariffs on Consumer and Display Fireworks

President Trump:

We were honored to see you and the First Lady enjoy the spectacular fireworks display celebrating your return to the White House and your renewed commitment to putting America First. Fireworks have always symbolized our nation's independence, unity, and prosperity. We know how much you like the spectacular shows that our members produce. We know that you want to ensure that all Americans will enjoy the fireworks displays scheduled for next year on America's 250th birthday.

However, the 20% tariffs levied on fireworks imported from China, and the potential for more, will threaten these amazing events, causing great disappointment throughout our nation.

The American Pyrotechnics Association (APA) and the National Fireworks Association (NFA), representing thousands of small family-owned businesses and nonprofits dependent on fireworks sales and displays, respectfully urge you to lift these tariffs immediately. The fireworks industry is unique, and our request aligns with your commitment to strengthening American businesses while protecting America's patriotic traditions.

Three Critical Reasons to Lift the Tariffs:

1. Supporting America's 250th Anniversary and Economic Growth

John Adams envisioned that America's independence should be commemorated with "pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations." Fireworks have been at the heart of this tradition for nearly 250 years. The 2026 Semiquincentennial is a once-in-a-lifetime celebration, and burdening our small businesses with immediate increased costs will jeopardize the associated historic events. An exemption for fireworks will

allow businesses to continue with their plans to have enough affordable inventory for Americans to participate in and enjoy this historic occasion.

2. A Hyper-Seasonal Industry with No Domestic Alternative

Fireworks are produced almost exclusively in China, with 99% of consumer fireworks and 75% of display fireworks imported into the U.S. originating there. The supply chain operates within a narrow seasonal window, where most of the imports happen within the first 5 months of the year and the increased 20% tariff costs will directly impact this year's Independence Day celebrations as well as the 250th anniversary in 2026. Fireworks businesses rely on a single, very short, selling season, and any disruption could be devastating. Many of these businesses are multi-generational, some with over 130 years of history, employing Americans who have dedicated their lives to this industry. Tariffs will not incentivize U.S. production—they will only increase costs. The reality is that there are no manufacturing alternatives available outside of China. Between 2022 and 2023, close to 16,000 shipping containers of fireworks entered the USA, with fewer than 100 sourced from outside of China. America's lack of key raw materials, high labor costs, and strict regulatory environment make fireworks production in the U.S. impossible. Rather than reshoring jobs, tariffs will only drive-up costs for American businesses, local governments, and consumers.

3. Severe Budget Impacts on Local Governments and Community Events

City and local governments budget for professional fireworks displays months in advance, locking in fixed prices long before the current 20% tariffs took effect. As fireworks become more expensive with the additional tariffs, we will see organizations cut back or eliminate the events that help to unify communities and bring Americans together. Additionally, nonprofit organizations such as churches, scout troops, and veterans' groups rely on fireworks sales for fundraising. The imposed tariffs directly threaten these revenue sources, harming the very communities that cherish these celebrations.

In 2019, your administration wisely recognized the unique nature of the fireworks industry and exempted it from similar tariffs. We urge you to take the same action now to protect American jobs, small businesses, and the patriotic celebrations that define our great nation. We welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your trade team to discuss this issue further.

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to the United States of America.

Sincerely,

Michael Ingram

Michael Ingram, President
American Pyrotechnics Association

Stacy Schneitter-Blake

Stacy Schneitter-Blake, President
National Fireworks Association

Enclosure

Facts About the American Fireworks Industry

- The APA and NFA represent thousands of businesses, many of which are multi-generational, family-owned companies with over 130 years in business here in the United States.
- Fireworks sales contribute over \$2 billion annually to the U.S. economy.
- 70% of consumer fireworks are sold to support nonprofit organizations, and display fireworks are crucial to municipal budgets and community events.
- Over 99% of global fireworks production takes place in China. Between 2022 and 2023, fewer than 100 out of 16,000 shipping containers came from outside of China.
- The 2019 exemption from Section 301 tariffs recognized that fireworks imports do not conflict with America's broader trade and security objectives.
- Tariffs on fireworks harm American businesses and consumers, not China. With no viable alternative suppliers, these tariffs only increase costs and reduce accessibility to cherished American celebrations.

We respectfully urge you to act now to lift the tariffs and keep fireworks an affordable and accessible tradition for all Americans.

About the American Pyrotechnics Association

The APA is the principal safety and trade association of the fireworks industry, representing manufacturers, importers, distributors, retailers, suppliers, and professional display companies. Founded in 1948, APA's mission is to encourage safety in the design and use of all types of fireworks, provide industry information and support to its members, and promote responsible regulation of the fireworks industry. The APA has over 270 member companies, which collectively account for 90% of the fireworks manufactured, imported, distributed, and professionally displayed in the United States. For more information, www.americanpyro.com

About the National Fireworks Association

The National Fireworks Association (NFA) is a non-profit trade association dedicated to promoting and advancing the fireworks industry in the United States. The NFA provides educational resources, safety training, and advocacy for over 1,000 members, which include manufacturers, distributors, retailers, and display operators. The NFA works to ensure fair and reasonable regulations, helping small businesses thrive in a highly regulated environment. Additionally, the association plays a crucial role in advancing fireworks safety standards and educating both industry professionals and consumers on best practices. With a strong commitment to preserving the heritage and tradition of fireworks, the NFA continues to be a leading voice in advocating for policies that support industry growth and sustainability. For more information, www.nationalfireworks.com

