



Alliance for Fair Trade with India

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AFTI Urges USTR to Address Indian Policies and Trade Barriers Adversely Impacting U.S. Industries

U.S.-India Trade Policy Forum and Commercial Dialogue Present Opportunity to Implement Concrete Policy Changes to Improve U.S-India Economic Relationship

WASHINGTON, D.C., October 25, 2017— In advance of the U.S.-India Trade Policy Forum and Commercial Dialogue this week, the Alliance for Fair Trade with India (AFTI) sent a [letter](#) urging U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer to make use of all bilateral dialogue and trade tools available to improve the U.S.-India commercial relationship and implement concrete, tangible progress to address issues in India that limit market access or undermine the competitiveness of U.S. industries.

“This week's Trade Policy Forum and Commercial Dialogue create opportunities to strengthen the bilateral U.S.-India trade relationship and break down market barriers in India to boost FDI, innovation and market access and boost manufacturing jobs in both countries,” **said Linda Dempsey, Vice President for International Economic Affairs at the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)**. “Manufacturers, however, want to see fair access to that market, and efforts to address priority issues such as price controls on innovative medical devices, continued challenges in protecting innovation and IP, forced localization policies in high-value, innovative industries, and other barriers.”

The letter notes that AFTI members are concerned that “India is failing to provide adequate and effective protection of intellectual property rights and fair access to its markets. Further, India maintains and continues to propose significant IP and market access barriers.” Specifically, the letter cites price controls, forced localization, technical barriers to trade and intellectual property barriers as the issues of significant concern that U.S. industries face in India.

“The innovation industry is encouraged by the government of India's positive action on software patentability and intellectual property rights awareness, as well as its pursuit of much-needed procedural reforms,” **said Patrick Kilbride, Vice President of International Intellectual Property for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Global Intellectual Property Center (GIPC)**. “However, growing price controls on innovative U.S. medical devices will not only limit quality and consumer choice, but they also pose a formidable barrier to entry for innovative products, in turn hurting bilateral trade ties.

We hope that the upcoming U.S.-India Trade Policy Forum can help eliminate gaps and identify new opportunities to strengthen intellectual property policy, because the U.S.-India economic relationship will reach its full potential sooner if it is driven by innovation.”

A copy of the full letter can be found on the AFTI website [here](#).

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The Alliance for Fair Trade with India (AFTI) is committed to supporting U.S. businesses facing longstanding trade and investment barriers in India. For more information, go to AFTIndia.org.