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Hearing on the Section 301 Investigations of Acts, Policies, and Practices of Various Economies Related to the Failure to Impose and Effectively Enforce a Prohibition on the Importation of Goods Produced with Forced Labor

Oral Testimony of Ed Brzytwa

Vice President of International Trade

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I'm Ed Brzytwa, Vice President of International Trade at the Consumer Technology Association.

As North America's largest technology trade association, CTA is the tech sector. Our members are the world's leading innovators – from startups to global brands – helping support more than 17 million American jobs. CTA owns and produces CES – the most powerful tech event in the world.

CTA and our members condemn the use of forced labor and support effective, enforceable U.S. policies to eradicate forced labor from global supply chains. Eliminating forced labor from global supply chains is a moral imperative and essential to maintain fair markets, protect workers, and sustain trust in global commerce.

CTA is part of the Joint Association Forced Labor Working Group and I'd like to echo Nate's comments who just testified on behalf on that coalition.

Today, I offer five guiding principles for effective, durable, and responsible policy to combat forced labor:

First, the U.S. government must provide transparency and clarity.

Enforcement measures — especially under authorities like Section 301 — should be grounded in clear reasoning and supported by evidence. Government should ensure stakeholders understand what standards are being applied, how risks are assessed, and what actions, policies, or practices must change to comply with the law. USTR should also use Section 301 as intended and avoid using the modification authority to dramatically expand tariffs without full notice and comment. Transparent processes strengthen legal durability and improve compliance by giving businesses and trading partners a clear roadmap.

Second, the U.S. should consider institutional capacity and reward good-faith efforts.

Countries differ significantly in their ability to implement and enforce labor protections. A lack of full enforcement does not always signal a lack of commitment. Recognizing incremental progress is important, and imposing tariffs on countries making meaningful improvements can be counterproductive. Positive actions can include commitments to share best practices, recognizing U.S. government determinations on entities under Section 307 of the Tariff Act of 1930, and responding to or aligning with WROs issued by Customs and Border Protection.

Third, coordination with trading partners will deliver real results.

Forced labor is a global challenge that demands coordinated global solutions. Recent initiatives, such as the 2026 Critical Minerals Ministerial and the Pax Silica initiative from the State Department provide useful models for information sharing and enforcement coordination on supply chain resiliency. USTR should consider convening a similar platform on a forced labor import ban. Working with partners to align approaches, share information, and build capacity will be more effective than a go-it-alone approach of broad tariffs on imports from U.S. trading partners.

Industry is also leading the way in efforts to prevent forced labor in supply chains. USTR should look to companies that publish corporate reports that describe how they identify, assess, and mitigate forced labor risks, and seek opportunities to support and enhance existing efforts.

Fourth, remedies should be targeted and evidence-based.

Enforcement tools are most effective when they are precise. Broad, across-the-board tariffs can produce unintended consequences, including increasing costs for consumers and inviting retaliation from trading partners. In some cases, tariffs can increase economic pressure on suppliers in those countries and create worse labor conditions, including more forced labor. In contrast, targeted actions can better align economic incentives with desired outcomes.

Finally, accountability should be ongoing and adaptive.

Regular monitoring, review, and adjustment of enforcement measures, including tariffs, ensures they remain effective, proportionate, and aligned with economic evidence. When trading partners and businesses make progress, U.S. policies should recognize it. Where gaps persist, the U.S. should use effective economic tools.

We should remain laser focused on the end goal: eradicating forced labor. I urge USTR to ensure our approach advances that effort and supports the Administration's broader goals around American growth and prosperity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.