

GSP ACTION COMMITTEE

2018 MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

On March 23, President Donald J. Trump signed legislation renewing the GSP program through December 31, 2020. However, the Administration subsequently announced “country practice reviews” that could result in the loss of duty-free GSP benefits for imports from major supplier countries, including India, Indonesia, and Thailand.

The Trade Partnership, which runs the Coalition for GSP, launched the GSP Action Committee to participate in the reviews on behalf of American companies, workers, and consumers. The Action Committee seeks new members that import under GSP to highlight the *U.S. benefits* of continued GSP treatment from major supplier countries.

COUNTRY PRACTICE REVIEWS: WHAT IS AT STAKE

Country practice reviews present a different – and potentially much greater – risk to importers than congressional failure to renew GSP in a timely manner. These risks include:

- **All imports from the countries could lose GSP benefits indefinitely** without specific “action” step (e.g., passing legislation) for reinstatement;
- **Country suspensions often last many years** before reinstatement (e.g., Argentina lost eligibility from 2012 to 2018), if at all (e.g., Bangladesh has not regained eligibility lost in 2013), and
- **Tariffs paid during suspensions are non-refundable** so money paid is lost forever, unlike tariffs paid during expirations.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

The GSP Action Committee will weigh in with the Administration and others, as appropriate, about the potential harm to U.S. companies of suspending GSP eligibility for major supplier countries. Planned activities include:

- **Written comments and testimony** as part of the formal review process;
- **Meetings with key Congressional staff on behalf of Action Committee members** about importance of retaining GSP for specific products from subject countries for constituent companies, and
- **Outreach to new companies** impacted by potential loss of GSP for specific to expand support for continued GSP benefits.

MEMBER BENEFITS

Members of the GSP Action Committee will receive:

- **Members-only email updates** on the review process and congressional meetings to remain informed of potential actions;
- **Assistance drafting company-specific materials** for use in communicating with key Congressional staff (note: this does not include detailed company submissions or testimony as part of formal review process);
- **Invitations to meetings** with Congress and the Administration (or help scheduling meetings in Washington, DC), and
- **General help with and updates on** other GSP-related issues that might arise.

COMPANY DUES

Company dues are based on the number of U.S. employees and GSP tariff savings in 2017. For companies with more than 500 workers and savings exceeding \$1 million, dues are \$10,000. For companies with fewer employees and/or lower GSP savings, dues are set at 1 percent of savings and capped at:

- \$2,500 for companies with 100 or fewer U.S. employees;
- \$5,000 for companies with 101 to 500 U.S. employees, and
- \$10,000 for companies with more than 500 U.S. employees.

To join or for more information, please contact **Dan Anthony** at anthony@tradepartnership.com.