April 4, 2019

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The undersigned organizations represent a diverse group of manufacturers and dealers that employ millions of workers and contribute billions of dollars to the U.S. economy. Collectively, our industries manufacture, remanufacture, sell and service non-light duty automotive and equipment products that require the use of parts classified under the same tariff codes as parts used in the automobile and automotive parts sector. The Section 232 Investigation on the National Security Implications of Imports of Automobiles, Including Cars, SUVs, Vans, and Light Trucks, and Automotive Parts poses a serious economic threat to the Nation’s entire economy and the well-being of our manufacturers, dealers, employees and customers. Any remedy proposing quotas or tariffs should not be implemented. We urge that you not impose tariffs on any imported vehicle or motor vehicle parts.

We have significant and legitimate concerns that implementation of Section 232 tariffs will eliminate the growth in U.S. manufacturing, and the corresponding increase in jobs and investment, which you are working so hard to achieve through your leadership on tax and regulatory reform.

Prior to Secretary Ross delivering the Section 232 report, he testified that non-light duty automotive and equipment manufacturers were not the intended target of the Section 232 automobile and automotive parts investigation. Those vehicles and parts are not a national security risk and if the scope of any Section 232 action were to include these products, the resulting tariffs will have significant unintended and detrimental economic effect on the national economy and the American public. If the Administration proceeds with the imposition of tariffs, then it would be necessary to determine how to exempt those industries and parts that are not intended to be included. Overall, that process and the imposition of tariffs on any imported vehicle or imported vehicle part would have a detrimental impact on the economy. We urge that you not impose tariffs on any imported vehicle or motor vehicle parts.
We are happy to work with the Administration and to provide any additional information as necessary. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Peter J. Pantuso
President
American Bus Association

Brian P. McGuire
President and Chief Executive Officer
Associated Equipment Distributors

Tim Kraus
President and Chief Operating Officer
The Heavy Duty Manufacturers Association

Jenn Brake
Director of Marketing & Membership
Remanufacturing Industries Council

John W. McClelland Ph. D.
Vice President for Government Affairs and Chief Economist
American Rental Association

Dennis J. Slater
President
Association of Equipment Manufacturers

T. Nicole Vasilaros, Esq.
Senior Vice President, Government and Legal Affairs
National Marine Manufacturers Association

Jed Mandel
President
Truck and Engine Manufacturers Association