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GENERAL ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE CCB:

U.S. Proposes New Section 301 Tariffs, Opens Consultation on Proposed Actions

- On June 2, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) [announced](#) the conclusion of its Section 301 investigations into 60 trade partners for their alleged failure to impose and enforce the importation of goods produced with forced labor (*BCI Monitor* 3-17-26).
- The proposed action against all 60 investigated countries is to impose a 10 percent tariff on trade partners that [have some measure of prohibition on forced labor](#) and 12.5 percent on [those that do not](#).
- As a follow up to these proposed actions, on June 5, the USTR published a [request for comments](#) on these proposed actions:
 - A public hearing will be held on July 7, 2026, in the main hearing room of the U.S. International Trade Commission, 500 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20436, beginning at 10:00 a.m.
 - Comments and requests to appear at the hearing may be submitted through the USTR's [electronic comment portal](#) under the appropriate docket item until July 6, 2026. Additionally, five days after the last day of the public hearing, post-hearing rebuttal comments may be submitted through the same portal.
 - For procedural questions pertaining to comments, the USTR Section 301 support line may be reached at (202) 395-5725. All other questions be submitted to Megan Grimball, Chair of the Section 301 Committee, at (202) 395-5725.
- Notably, the tariffs will not apply to Canadian and Mexican imports that comply with United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA). Additional exemptions are outlined in [Annex A](#) of the request for comments published by the USTR.

USTR Requests Comments on U.S.-China Board of Trade and Tariff Reductions

- On June 2, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) [announced](#) a [Federal Register Notice](#) requesting public comments on the scope, design, and operational structure of a new government-to-government "U.S.-China Board of Trade". The mechanism is intended to function as an ongoing "adapter" to optimize bilateral trade and manage commercial relations between both nations.
- Under the proposed framework, the U.S. and China would consider lower tariff modifications on an equal value of designated "non-sensitive" goods while closely monitoring ongoing trade flows. Favorable tariff modifications would apply strictly to duties currently imposed above normal most-favored-nation (MFN) rates, potentially lowering them to Column 1 MFN levels.
- USTR is asking stakeholders to identify eligible agricultural and industrial products (preferably at the HS 8-digit level) that carry minimal risks to national security or supply chain resilience, and to quantify the potential benefits or economic harm of these tariff modifications to domestic workers, producers, and consumers.
- Comments are due by July 10, 2026, and may be submitted through the [online public docket](#).

A REPORT FOR
THE CALIFORNIA
CHERRY BOARD