



Telephone Script for Phone Calls with Congressional Staff

Dear Representative or Senator:

My name is _____, and I live in your district/state. I am a toy retailer/manufacturer/industry employee and I'm calling to express my deep concern and strong objection to President Trump's tariffs on toys made in China and in other countries. These tariffs are already badly hurting the toy industry across the country and here is my situation...(please talk about your store or your role in the industry and add how your business is being impacted...stopped orders, lost sales, employee reductions, difficulty making payroll/staying in business, etc.) The toy industry, consumers, and the overall economy are being badly impacted by these tariffs. Please ask Representative _____ or Senator _____ to tell President Trump to eliminate the tariff on toys immediately!! Thank you.

Additional talking points/considerations:

- When you first call the congressional office, a front office receptionist will answer and you should ask to speak with the staff person who handles tariffs. The front office receptionist may also ask you to leave your message with her or him, and that is perfectly fine as well.
- If you get a staff person's answering machine, leave the message above with your number and at the end of your voice message, ask the staff person to please call you back.
- If a staff person (or front office receptionist) takes your phone call:
 - Be friendly and speak calmly...the staff person you are talking to is very likely in his/her early-20s to mid-20s and possibly fresh out of college in their first political job.
 - The staff person you speak with (or front office receptionist) is taking calls throughout the day from people just like you who call to discuss an issue



and who want to relay their position. So, they are used to receiving the kind of call you will be making.

- The office staff is very likely tracking the calls and keeping a tally of who is taking which position on an issue. So, the "ask" at the end of the call is very important. Please be sure to ask the staff person to have their boss (the Representative or Senator) contact President Trump to immediately eliminate the tariff on toys.
- Lastly, please don't be nervous:
 - No one knows the pressure you are under dealing with these tariffs like you do. You are the expert since it is your story...your business, your challenges, your life that you are sharing with the office staff.
 - While this may be the first call you make to a congressional office, the staff/receptionist answering your call takes these types of calls all day, every day so they will be very understanding.