

### **AMBA Calls Its Members to Submit Comments to USTR during Tariff Review**

*Indianapolis, IN* – On November 22, the American Mold Builders Association (AMBA) called its members to action and asked them to file comments with the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) asking that it not lift the 25% tariff of molds, tooling and dies imported from China. USTR is currently accepting public input during its statutorily required review of the tariffs.

“American mold builders are mobilizing to keep the Section 301 tariffs in place on Chinese-made plastic injection molds as part of the continuing battle to strengthen manufacturing in America and the domestic supply chains,” declared AMBA Managing Director Kym Conis. “As we have consistently demonstrated, U.S. mold manufacturers have the capability, capacity and willingness to meet the needs of the U.S. manufacturing industry, and these tariffs play a critical role in leveling the playing field so that they can continue to do so.”

This is not the first mobilization and call-to-action submitted by AMBA to its membership. This summer, AMBA members generated almost one in five of all the comments filed with the USTR to retain tariffs on Chinese imports. Now, as the USTR conducts its full review, members are heeding AMBA’s call to once again step up and make their voices heard.

“All of the data from AMBA’s recent surveys, including its 2022 *State of the Industry Report* clearly indicates that the Section 301 tariffs have been beneficial to American mold manufacturers,” reported Conis. “Within our membership alone, half indicated earlier this year that they have gained re-shored work after the enforcement of these tariffs, while nearly three-quarters reported anticipating either immediate or future negative impact on their removal. Given that current capacity utilization remains only at 72 percent, we anticipate both percentages to rise in the coming months should the tariffs remain in place.”

AMBA members began filing formal comments upon opening of the USTR docket on November 15, 2022, which are now available for public review, and have the opportunity to continue to weigh in with the Biden administration as it accepts stakeholder input through January 17, 2023. The public docket can be accessed here: <https://comments.ustr.gov/s/docket?docketNumber=USTR-2022-0014>.

In July 2018, the U.S. Government imposed a 25% tariff on imported plastic injection molds from China; however, granted a twelve-month exclusion from the tariffs for U.S. importers on December 28, 2018. In December 2019, USTR permitted the exclusion to expire following receiving more than 150 public comments from American mold building companies calling for the reinstatement of the 25% tariff on the molds, which appear on List 1 under the Section 301 tariff action.

The American Mold builders Association is committed to serving the needs of the domestic manufacturing industry, and it looks forward to working with the Biden administration to strengthen manufacturing in the U.S. and ensure that American mold builders can continue to provide thousands of jobs across this country – supplying plastic injection molds for decades to come.

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*Established in 1973, the American Mold Builders Association (AMBA) is the largest grassroots organization in the United States dedicated solely to the mold manufacturing industry. As a national non-profit trade association serving over 200 member companies and over 50 partner companies (supplier members), AMBA provides its members with access to the most powerful networking and resources in the industry.*