



American Medical Manufacturers Association

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The Honorable Joseph Biden
President of the United States
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Kamala Harris
Vice President of the United States
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden and Vice President Harris,

The American Medical Manufacturers Association (AMMA) urges you to prioritize the development of a robust and sustainable domestic manufacturing base for personal protective equipment (PPE) in the United States. We represent America's leading PPE manufacturers, users, and distributors.

This letter details several ways that Congress can achieve what we believe are shared and bipartisan policy goals to create a robust domestic PPE industry. The industry also commends the efforts taken to date. The creation of the Made in America Office (MIAO), the Office of Pandemic Preparedness and Response Policy (OPPR), and President Biden's signing of the "Make PPE in America Act" were all strong initial measures to strengthen domestic manufacturing. However, sustained effort is critical to carry out the objectives outlined in these reforms.

In 2023, AMMA used media, social media, and direct outreach to you to highlight the government's commitment to bolster domestic PPE manufacturing capacity with its \$1 billion down payment during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, these government efforts have since stalled, jeopardizing American PPE supply chains, pandemic preparedness, and thousands of manufacturing jobs.

The pandemic has exposed the heavy reliance of the U.S. on Chinese supplies of finished PPE and precursor materials. China has exploited unfair business practices to increase its global share of critical PPE manufacturing, controlling over 50% of the world's supply of nitrile gloves, respirators, and gowns. This dependence on foreign nations like China for critical materials leaves the United States vulnerable.

In 2024, AMMA stands ready to collaborate with the Administration and the U.S. government to continue efforts to build a robust domestic PPE manufacturing industry that enhances national security and resilience, increases public health preparedness, stimulates job creation and economic growth, ensures high-quality control standards, and reduces dependency on foreign suppliers.

To achieve these goals, AMMA proposes the following priorities:

1. **Ensure that the Administration Remains Committed to the U.S. PPE Industry:**

- *End Section 301 Tariff Exemptions and Tariff Inversions:* Reduce the number of approvals of tariff exemptions on PPE products that benefit foreign-owned companies at the expense of U.S. manufacturers. The U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) should immediately address the impact of inverted tariffs on the domestic PPE industry.
- *Enforce Existing Buy-America Laws:* Ensure that the U.S. government adheres to the spirit and requirements of the Make PPE in America Act. The Made in America Office (MIAO) should scrutinize any requests for waivers from buying domestically produced PPE.
- *Replenish our Strategic Stockpile with Domestically Produced PPE:* Health and Human Services (HHS) and ASPR's Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) should be replenished with domestically produced PPE and HHS should not seek waivers from MIAO from buying domestically produced PPE.
- *Address the Government's Failure on PPE-Related Manufacturing Infrastructure Projects:* Hold the government accountable for completing PPE-related manufacturing infrastructure projects and prioritizing domestic PPE production and supply chain resilience in government contracts and procurement processes.
- *Utilize Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) Reimbursements:* Collaborate with CMS to extend reimbursements to other domestically made PPE, building on the successful pilot program for domestic NIOSH-approved surgical N95 respirators.

By addressing these priorities and taking action in these areas, we can strengthen national security, enhance public health preparedness, stimulate job creation and economic growth, ensure high-quality control standards, and reduce dependency on foreign suppliers.

Thank you for your attention to these critical matters. We look forward to working with you to build a robust domestic PPE manufacturing industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Axel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Eric" and last name "Axel" clearly distinguishable.

Eric Axel, Executive Director, American Medical Manufacturers Association