

The USTR emergency request should be rejected.

Any attempt to channel the submission of comments imposing requirements and/or asking for certain information as a condition for the submission to be completed will have as an unintended (?) but inevitable consequence (1) a significant reduction of the number of comments received by the USTR, and (2) a limitation on the ability of concerned citizens to make their voice be heard by the Government. Please maintain the existing commenting process as it is.

Alternatively, consider supplementing the existing process by adding a non-mandatory option for those who are willing and able to submit comments adhering to the format that the USTR is seeking to receive from the public.

Asking the broad public to identify the HTS (Harmonization Tariff Schedule) number or similar trade-related information is disingenuous: of course, the broad public does not know that! Why should they? With the excuse of analyzing the info, the USTR is effectively limiting the voice of those whose lives are impacted by the USTR decision.

It is precisely the restaurant owner, the bartender, the small importer and the public in general, who do not have the time or knowledge to provide the technical info now required by the USTR, the ones that the USTR should hear from, as it happened in February.

The process is not intended to be easy for the USTR to manage, but easy for the public to be able to express its opinion.