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POOL & HOT TUB ALLIANCE SUPPORTS HISTORIC STEPS TO REBALANCE TRADE WITH CHINA

United States and China Agree to Phase One Trade Deal

(ALEXANDRIA, VA)—The Pool & Hot Tub Alliance (PHTA) supports the Phase One, formal trade agreement between the United States and China. Unveiled last week, this historic Phase One agreement between the United States and China marks a milestone in the 18 month long United States and China trade war.

The Phase One agreement requires structural reforms and other changes to China’s economic and trade regime in the areas of intellectual property, technology transfer, agriculture, financial services and currency and foreign exchange. Also, it includes a commitment by China to make substantial additional purchases of U.S. goods and services in the coming years.

This agreement comes roughly seven months after a failed deal. In May, Beijing walked away from a nearly complete trade agreement that they felt was unbalanced and in favor of the United States. This was a key cause to the Trump Administration’s trade war with China and the sanctions that came with it.

On Sunday, December 15, The New York Times reported that in this agreement, the Trump administration would be slashing existing tariffs by as much as half on roughly $360 billion of Chinese goods, in addition to cancelling new tariffs on $156 billion in Chinese goods that were expected to be in effect starting Sunday, December 15. In return for the alleviation, China will have to guarantee large purchases of United States goods such as soybeans, poultry and other farm products. However, the United States has the right to return tariff rates to their original levels if China fails to meet what is required.

“The pool and hot tub industry has felt the impact of these trade wars especially in the manufacturing industry,” said PHTA’s Director of Government Affairs, Jennifer Hatfield. “We remain optimistic that this deal will be a significant step forward for the manufacturing industry as it helps rebalance the relationship between the United States and China.”

Details about what “Phase Two” entails or when active negotiations would begin have not been released. As more information becomes available, PHTA’s Government Affairs team will keep you posted.

The United States Trade Representative (USTR) have released an agreement fact sheet. In this fact sheet...
sheet, you can see information on specific chapters of the Phase One agreement. View or download it here.

For more information, email PHTA’s Director of Government Affairs, Jennifer Hatfield at jhatfield@phta.org.

About PHTA
The Pool & Hot Tub Alliance (PHTA) was formed in 2019, combining the Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP) and the National Swimming Pool Foundation (NSPF). With the mission to “Celebrate the Water,” PHTA facilitates the expansion of swimming, water safety and related research and outreach activities aimed at introducing more people to swimming, making swimming environments safer and keeping pools open to serve communities. For more information, visit PHTA.org, APSP.org or NSPF.org.