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December 9, 2015

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

DEAR LEADER MCCONNELL AND SPEAKER RYAN:

I'm writing to express Etsy's enthusiastic support for the passage of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act (H.R. 644), which increases the US de minimis customs threshold to \$800 and encourages USTR to prioritize this issue in future trade negotiations. Increasing de minimis thresholds around the world helps small and micro-businesses succeed in an increasingly global marketplace.

Etsy is a marketplace where people around the world connect, both online and offline, to make, sell and buy unique goods. As of December 2014, we hosted over 1.4 million active sellers, who together sold over \$1.93 billion in goods in 2014. Fully 86% of our sellers are women, and most are sole-proprietors working out of their home, yet they are international exporters in their own right.

Increasing the customs threshold for low-value goods will dramatically reduce the customs burdens that our sellers face, particularly when processing returns and sourcing materials overseas. Additionally, the bill includes a "Sense of the Congress" encouraging the USTR to obtain commitments from other countries to increase their de minimis thresholds—an outcome that would drastically reduce the barriers Etsy sellers face when exporting their goods abroad.

Easing barriers to international trade and shipping is a top priority for Etsy sellers, and the customs bill does just that. We, along with our community of creative micro-entrepreneurs, applaud this Congress' leadership on international trade. We look forward to the passage of this bill, and the benefits it will bring to the global marketplace. If you have any questions, please contact our Senior Director of Global Policy, Althea Erickson, at althea@etsy.com.

Sincerely,

Chad Dickerson
Etsy CEO