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Marco Zambianchi
Technogym North America

September 24, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Request for additional vaccines, COVID Tests and PPE for Vietnam and other Asian partners

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the sporting goods and fitness equipment industry, the Sports & Fitness Industry Association (SFIA) applauds your efforts to manage the COVID-19 virus in the United States as well as the leadership of our government in the global effort to stop the pandemic. We welcome your announcement yesterday of the U.S Government's intention to send an additional 500 million vaccine doses to developing countries. In this regard, we write to highlight the critical need to address the pandemic through provision of additional vaccines to our key U.S. partners in Asia. Vietnam, a country very closely connected to our economy, is of particular concern as the country is facing dramatic COVID threats and the physical health of Vietnamese citizens will have a very significant impact on our economy.

Global supply chains are experiencing historic disruptions and the situation in Asia, especially Vietnam, is compounding the situation. As is widely reported daily, these supply chain and logistics challenges threaten to harm the United States economy, from businesses that face limited raw materials, production delays and labor shortages to consumers facing potentially soaring prices and limited availability of products. Our industry has never experienced global disruptions and pricing dislocations of this magnitude. There are many contributing factors to the supply chain issue beyond U.S. control, but fortunately vaccine distribution, COVID tests and PPE are areas we can influence to help limit additional disruptions while supporting global public health imperatives.

After initial success in mitigating the virus, the COVID-19 pandemic has become a health crisis in Vietnam, forcing the shutdown of factories in the southern part of the country. The country needs help and needs it as soon as possible. With Vietnam being the second largest foreign source of sports and fitness products to the United States, we ask that you support an aggressive effort to direct vaccine/testing/PPE resources to Vietnam and other key American partners. We respectfully request the U.S. release more excess inventory of these vital tools in to improve COVID outcomes and ultimately end this pandemic.



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The COVID pandemic has illuminated the importance of Americans staying physically active, getting outdoors, and having fun with sports and other activities. We see how American children, families and communities are eager to return to playing sports and being active whenever they can as our society opens up. The positive mental health as well as physical benefits that come from being Active and part of a team or fitness class have never been more understood or appreciated. As one of America's primary industries responsible for supporting these aspects of physical and mental health we respectfully make our request to drive pandemic resources to key partners while emphasizing this connection between supply chains and American health benefits.

Recognizing the United States as the world leader in vaccine production, we urge the U.S. to take care of domestic needs and make more vaccines available in the effort to eradicate this horrible disease around the world, including key Asian countries where they are desperately needed.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. The U.S. economy remains in a critical phase of its recovery from the pandemic. Alleviating the strain on our supply chains will help reduce the outside pressure on our economy and help Americans be more active to limit the physical and mental damage from COVID-19.

Sincerely,



Thomas Cove
President & CEO