

January 19, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I write to you as the chairperson of the Solidarity Movement, a leading South African civil society organization committed to protecting workers' rights, promoting economic self-reliance, and preserving cultural identity, particularly for Afrikaans-speaking communities.

Originating as a trade union in the mining industry, Solidarity has grown into a comprehensive movement with over 25 affiliated institutions, including the Solidarity trade union and AfriForum, a civil rights organization. We represent more than 600 000 members and focus on practical solutions to South Africa's challenges, including job creation, skills training, and upholding constitutional principles to build a prosperous future for all.

With the recent passage of the AGOA Extension Bill (H.R. 6500) by the House of Representatives, which would extend the African Growth and Opportunity Act through to December 31, 2028, I respectfully urge you to support South Africa's continued inclusion in AGOA and to sign the legislation into law without provisions that would exclude or differentially treat our country. This renewal is crucial as AGOA has already expired in September 2025, leading to tariffs that have already harmed businesses and workers in South Africa.



AGOA has been a tremendous success for South Africa and the broader African continent. Also, for many Afrikaner businesses and workers the benefits over the last 25 years were enormous. AGOA has enabled billions of rand in duty-free exports to the United States, supporting vital sectors in South Africa such as automotive manufacturing, agriculture, and textiles creating and sustaining thousands of jobs in the private sector.

Across sub-Saharan Africa, AGOA has driven industrialization, poverty reduction and regional integration by providing access to the world's largest consumer market, encouraging value-added production over raw material exports. From our perspective as advocates for workers and entrepreneurs AGOA empowers the private sector to generate sustainable employment and economic independence, reducing dependence on inefficient government programs.

Importantly, the benefits of AGOA flow directly to South Africa's private sector and its hardworking employees who should not bear the burden of disagreements with the government. While we acknowledge the concerns raised about South Africa's foreign policy positions and certain domestic policies such as farm attacks, expropriation, racial laws and the rights of minorities like Afrikaners, these issues can and should be addressed through direct bilateral negotiations, diplomatic pressure or targeted conditions rather than broad trade measures that penalize innocent businesses, farmers, and workers.

Excluding South Africa from AGOA would devastate export-dependent industries and jobs, undermining the very economic players who contribute positively to stability and growth. I can confirm that ongoing discussions between the South African government and your administration aim to resolve these tensions and secure a path forward for trade relations. The Solidarity Movement has actively supported these efforts, including through our engagements with US stakeholders to highlight the importance of maintaining economic ties that benefit





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ordinary people on both sides. We are committed to helping bridge gaps and facilitate constructive agreements.

Geopolitically, preserving AGOA, including South Africa's participation, is essential for America's interests in Africa. As you have emphasized, countering Chinese and Russian influence, AGOA serves as a powerful tool to promote free-market principles, secure access to critical minerals (where South Africa plays a key role), and foster stable, prosperous partners on a continent set to represent a quarter of the global population by mid-century. AGOA has also contributed positively to perceptions of the US in Africa over the past two decades.

Allowing AGOA's lapse or excluding major participants would create opportunities for adversarial powers to expand their economic dominance through debt traps and coercive practices. Renewing AGOA with inclusive eligibility strengthens US strategic positioning, supply chain resilience, and shared prosperity.

The Solidarity Movement remains fully committed to building and maintaining a strong, mutually beneficial relationship between the United States and South Africa. We believe that continued AGOA participation will reinforce these ties, delivering real wins for American businesses, consumers, and workers while supporting job-creating growth in South Africa.

Delegations from our organizations visited the US and specifically the White House twice last year. We would specifically like to make a request to the Trump administration for a more formalized platform through which liaison between Afrikaner organizations with proven support and membership can collaborate, communicate and discuss important issues with the US government.



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Thank you for your consideration of this vital matter and for your leadership in advancing America's interests globally. I would be honored to discuss this further or provide additional perspectives from our ground-level experience in South Africa.

Sincerely,

Flip Buys  
Chairperson  
Solidarity Movement



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