MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SBF Expresses Disappointment over USTR Determination; Stands Ready to Support Businesses

Thursday, 26 November 2026

The Singapore Business Federation (SBF) is disappointed by the USTR's determination that Singapore's policies and practices contribute to structural excess manufacturing capacity and burden US commerce. We do not believe the findings accurately reflect Singapore's market-driven economy, our role as a global trading and logistics hub, or the mutually beneficial nature of US-Singapore economic relations.

Singapore's manufacturing is market-driven

2. Singapore has consistently run an overall trade deficit with the United States. The US recorded a trade surplus of about US$33.3 billion with Singapore in 2025, and it also enjoys surpluses in sectors the investigation highlights, including semiconductors, electrical equipment and petrochemicals.

3. Our manufacturing is demand-led and commercially driven. Investments by US and other multinational companies serve genuine global demand, while contributing to skilled jobs, innovation and resilient supply chains. Singapore's manufacturing policies are aimed at raising productivity and competitiveness, not sustaining idle or uneconomic capacity.

4. Singapore has also been a trusted supply-chain partner to the US. Our role as a manufacturing and logistics hub supports many US companies and helps them serve growing Asian markets. Broad additional tariffs could weaken supply-chain resilience by disrupting established production networks and raising costs for companies and consumers in both countries.

5. SBF is concerned not only about the absolute tariff rate, but also about potential tariff differentials between Singapore and competing economies. These differentials could affect Singapore businesses' relative competitiveness and influence future investment, manufacturing and supply-chain decisions. We recognise that there remains room for further negotiations and hope that continued engagement will lead to an outcome that takes into account Singapore's circumstances as a small and highly open economy.

Impact on businesses and next steps

6. The practical impact on Singapore businesses will depend on the final US action, including the products covered, tariff rates, implementation timeline, and how any new tariffs interact with existing measures. The proposed measures could involve tariffs of up to 20 per cent, but there remains scope for a lower rate of 10 per cent depending on further negotiations between Singapore and the United States.

7. This finding adds to the US trade measures that businesses are already working through. Affected companies now need to assess how the layered measures interact, which contracts are affected, and what adjustments to sourcing and pricing are required.

MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

8. SBF will actively engage Trade Associations and Chambers and businesses to gather feedback and better understand the direct and indirect implications across sectors, including for Singapore companies with overseas manufacturing operations. We will sense-make these developments with the Government through the Singapore Economic Resilience Taskforce and work closely with the business community to identify and shape any additional support measures that may be required.

9. Businesses should tap existing support measures where relevant. SBF's Centre for the Future of Trade and Investment will support businesses with practical guidance, trade advisory services and resources. Companies can also make fuller use of Singapore's FTA network, SBF's internationalisation programmes and overseas networks to explore new markets and diversify their business footprint.

10. Quote from Mr Kok Ping Soon, Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Business Federation: "While we are disappointed with the USTR's determination, our immediate priority is to help businesses navigate these uncertainties and remain competitive. SBF will work closely with the business community and the Government to understand the implications and shape the necessary support.

While we cannot control developments in the global trade environment, we can determine how we respond. Our businesses must continue to remain agile, adapt to changing circumstances and actively seek out new opportunities. SBF stands ready to support them in doing so."

###

For media queries, please contact:

Zeno Group *on behalf of Singapore Business Federation*
E: SBF@zenogroup.com

About Singapore Business Federation (新加坡工商联合总会)
Singapore Business Federation (SBF) is the apex business chamber with over 34,000 members across diverse industries. With a vision to advance Singapore towards a globally competitive and sustainable economy, SBF mobilises the business community to be future-ready and magnify transformation opportunities through policy advocacy, partnership platforms and capability programmes. For more information, please visit: www.sbf.org.sg