

September 15, 2025

The Honorable Mike Crapo, Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jason Smith, Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking
Member
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Neal, Ranking
Member
Committee on Ways and Means
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

U.S. Industries Urge Action on Trade Enforcement Legislation

Dear Chairman Crapo, Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Wyden and Ranking Member Neal:

The undersigned organizations represent an array of domestic manufacturing, agricultural industries and workers that have endured, for decades, an unrelenting wave of unfairly traded imports. Dumped and subsidized imports have robbed U.S. producers of their market shares and countless American workers of their jobs in communities across the country. These malicious trade actions by foreign exporters have severely eroded U.S. businesses and the communities that depend upon them.

These injured entities have, time and again, turned to U.S. trade laws for relief and rely upon U.S. customs for proper enforcement of these laws. Failure to modernize those laws and provide sufficient resources devoted to their execution have left our companies and workers exposed. The United States' antidumping (AD) and countervailing (CVD) trade laws must be updated to address the growing scale and evolving tactics of unfair trade. Federal resources devoted to combating customs fraud through administration of trade and customs laws have not kept pace with the explosive growth of remedial trade orders. Additionally, existing penalties for customs fraud are doing little to discourage bad actors from transshipping products and using other harmful practices to evade lawfully imposed duties and other judicial orders.

Now, more than ever, as the Trump Administration works to course correct the nation's international trade posture and complete trade deals with numerous countries, trade enforcement must be addressed. While the President's bold actions are reducing unfair and harmful imports, more is needed. Trade crime is soaring.¹ Congress must act now. It is long overdue that

¹ See <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/27/business/economy/trump-tariffs-trade-crime.html> ("Trade Crime Is Soaring, U.S. Firms Say, as Trump's Tariffs Incentivize Fraud"), <https://www.ft.com/content/147fddb-7031-4347-9251-4425614e138d> ("Chinese exporters 'wash' products in third countries to avoid Donald Trump's tariffs"), <https://www.cnbc.com/2025/05/20/china-us-exporters-undervalue-cargo-dodge-us-tariffs-.html> ("Chinese exporters are offering sweet deals to U.S. businesses. They often come wrapped in fraud") and <https://www.economist.com/united-states/2025/03/12/americas-trade-hawks-fear-the-gaps-in-trumps-tariff-wall> ("America's trade hawks fear the gaps in Trump's tariff wall").

Congress enhances the tools relied upon by manufacturers, farmers, and countless other sectors across every state in our nation to combat fraudulent trading practices used to circumvent U.S. trade enforcement. Congress must also devote the necessary resources needed to prosecute trade crimes. Bad actors should not be let off the hook because of inadequate agency resources and crimes must be prosecuted accordingly if U.S. law is to discourage future trade and customs laws violations.

We urge you to expeditiously enact trade and customs enforcement measures to better equip U.S. industries and workers to defend themselves from the unfair trading practices and mercantilist machinations of state actors, most prominently, China. Among the measures that should be swiftly adopted in the 119th Congress are the following measures, each of which enjoys broad bipartisan support:

- *The Leveling the Playing Field 2.0 Act (H.R.1548, S.691)*, which would modernize U.S. trade laws to ensure that domestic industries are able to pursue and rely on remedies to address new and evolving unfair trade practices such as cross-border subsidies (e.g., China’s “Belt and Road” initiative) and “country hopping” to evade application of antidumping and countervailing duty orders;
- *The Fighting Trade Cheats Act (H.R.1284)*, which would give Customs and Border Protection more tools to combat and deter customs fraud;
- *The Protecting American Industry and Labor from International Trade Crimes Act (H.R.1869)*, which directs the U.S. Department of Justice to establish a new task force dedicated to investigating and prosecuting international trade crimes, including customs fraud, duty evasion, and transshipment, and authorizes critical funding for these efforts; and
- *Updating the Enforce and Protect Act (EAPA)* provisions to more effectively address the evasion of antidumping and countervailing duties, by: expanding its scope to include Section 232 and Section 301 tariffs; empowering CBP to initiate investigations upon uncovering evidence of evasion; and requiring importers found guilty of evading proper duties to pay the established penalties before appealing the determination.

These changes would strengthen trade enforcement and help break the ongoing cycle of unfair trade practices that harm domestic producers and workers, and the communities they support.

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we look forward to working with you toward enactment of meaningful legislative improvements to our trade laws and customs enforcement tools to better protect American producers in the face of unrelenting unfair trade and to preserve the utility of the U.S. trade laws.

Respectfully,

Alliance for American Manufacturing (AAM)	Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association (KCMA)
American Foundry Society (AFS)	M&B Metal Products, Inc.
American Honey Producers Association (AHPA)	McWane Inc.

American Institute of Steel Construction
(AISC)
American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI)
American Shrimp Processors Association
(ASPA)
American Wire Producers Association
(AWPA)
Cambria
Cast Iron Soil Pipe Institute (CISPI)
Charlotte Pipe and Foundry
Cold Finished Steel Bar Institute (CFSBI)
Committee on Pipe and Tube Imports (CPTI)
Ductile Iron Pipe Research Association
(DIPRA)

FDP Brakes
Municipal Castings Association (MCA)
Plews & Edlmann
Southern Shrimp Alliance
Specialty Steel Industry of North America
(SSINA)
Steel Manufacturers Association (SMA)
Trinity Metals LLC
U.S. OCTG Manufacturers Association
(USOMA)
Webco Industries