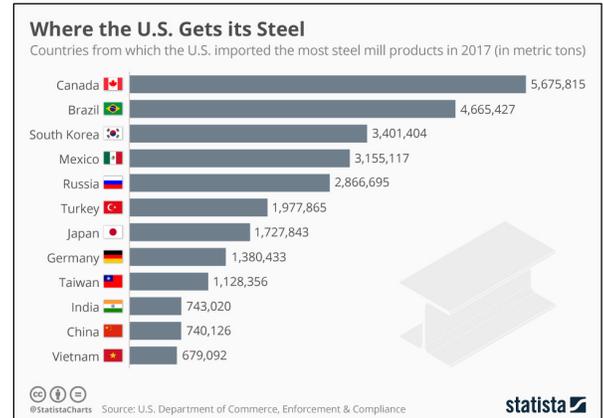


## OPPOSITION TO ADDITIONAL TARIFFS

**OBJECTIVE:** Oppose excessive tariffs on building products such as steel and aluminum that decrease product availability and increase the cost of construction that ultimately harms consumers.

**STEEL AND ALUMINUM TARIFFS:** The U.S. Department of Commerce imposed a 25 percent tariff on steel and 10 percent tariff on aluminum imported to the United States effective March 23. At present, only steel and aluminum imports from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, and South Korea are exempt from the tariffs as those countries have agreed to quotas or volume limits.

Tariffs on steel imports present the latest challenge for the building and construction sector. Duties between 10 percent and 24 percent are currently in effect for Canadian softwood lumber and a lack of skilled workers has made it harder to finish some construction projects.



**PROPOSED TARIFFS ON CHINESE GOODS:** The White House announced on July 10 that it plans to impose a 10 percent tariff totaling \$200 billion on a wide variety of Chinese goods, including building materials such as paving blocks, wood flooring, wall coverings, and roofing slate. Ambassador Robert Lighthizer, the United States Trade Representative, announced the plan following an escalation of the trade dispute between the U.S. and China. The tariffs are expected to take effect in September

The latest tariff announcement raises additional concerns that the Administration's trade policies are undoing the economic success from last year's tax cuts. Adding another \$200 billion in tariffs to the \$50 billion recently imposed would place new annual tariffs of \$250 billion on Chinese goods. For perspective, the U.S. imported \$505.6 billion in Chinese goods last year.

**CURRENT STATUS:** After receiving several short-term exemptions, steel and aluminum imports from Canada, Mexico, and European Union member countries are now subject to the tariffs. The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative is accepting comments on the latest Chinese tariff proposal through August 17 and will hold a public hearing August 20-23. NLBMDA plans to submit comments opposing the latest round of tariffs.

**NLBMDA POSITION:** NLBMDA opposes tariffs on steel and aluminum imports as it increases construction costs, decreases housing affordability, and can cause an unnecessary trade war that harms consumers. Moreover, NLBMDA is concerned that if it takes effect, \$200 billion in tariffs on Chinese goods could have a significant negative impact for the nation's economy.

**REQUEST:** Oppose tariffs that impose unnecessary costs to products--such as steel and aluminum--and communicate with White House trade officials on the need to avoid a trade war that hurts consumers.

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