



**IAM**  
UNION

International Association of Machinists  
& Aerospace Workers

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## CONGRESS SHOULD PROMOTE FAIR TRADE POLICIES

The IAM is urging Congress to be engaged in the shaping of trade policy that benefits American workers first. **Trade should be equal and fair, offering the American workforce the chance for job growth and strengthening.** Congress should also ensure there are safety nets like Trade Adjustment Assistance for workers when trade deals negatively impact them. We have witnessed bad trade deals like NAFTA and CAFTA, which resulted in the net loss of U.S. jobs. Such unfair policies should not be repeated going forward, and it's Congress' duty to ensure protections are in place.

All trade deals should include binding and enforceable labor and environmental standards, even matching current U.S. laws. Labor standards, for example, must be about actual and well-defined rights, including collective bargaining.

The U.S. Constitution gives Congress the power over trade activity with foreign countries.

### What is IAM requesting?

- **REJECT harmful and misguided tariffs** against key trade partners such as Canada, which is a nation so critical to U.S. national security and supply chain in key industries such as aerospace.
  - o Use of tariffs can be an effective enforcement measure to punish bad trade actors such as countries that do not respect the rights of workers, threatening U.S. jobs.
  - o The IAM is a very diverse union that represents workers in both Canada and the U.S
  - o The new tariffs on Canada, one of our closest allies and largest trading partners, are unjust and will have lasting negative impacts on American and Canadian workers.
  - o The justification for these tariffs, citing the fentanyl crisis, is demonstrably false. U.S. Customs and Border Protection data reveals that less than 1% of fentanyl seizures originate from the U.S.-Canada border, while over 96% stem from the southern border with Mexico.
  - o In general, tariffs should be strategic in nature and combined with good industrial policy such as the CHIPS and Science Act and the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), laws used to help grow domestic capacity in manufacturing and other sectors.
- **FUND the U.S. Department of Labor's Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program** and allow it to start receiving applications.
  - o The IAM has been continually advocating for the reauthorization of the TAA program since it entered phaseout termination in 2022.
  - o The federal program was meant to help workers impacted by bad trade policies, providing resources like training and employment services. These are thousands of workers each year who are left unemployed due to no fault of their own.

- Data shows there are tens of thousands of workers each year waiting for Congress to renew TAA. These submitted worker petitions for assistance cannot be processed by the DOL until reauthorization.
- **ENSURE a fully funded and staffed Department of Labor Bureau of International Affairs (ILAB.)**
  - ILAB is an agency tasked with helping improve working conditions and protect workers' ability to exercise their rights overseas.
  - The Trump administration has ended grants totaling more than \$500 million that are intended to aid labor standard enforcement across 40 countries, including Mexico and Central America.
  - Unfair conditions overseas impact U.S. workers who have to compete with nations stifling wages and suppressing workers' rights in key manufacturing industries.
- **ENSURE Congress is engaged in the renegotiated USMCA, or NAFTA 2.0, trade deal that is now up for the mandated six-year review.**
  - The IAM did not endorse the USMCA when it was up for ratification between the U.S., Mexico and Canada in Jan. 2020 as we said then "USMCA won't stop the hundreds of thousands of manufacturing and service jobs that are being offshored from the U.S."
  - This is now the time to right some of the wrongs of the USMCA, which has not halted the stream of manufacturing job losses overseas.
  - The IAM joins other trade unions in calling for a renegotiated USMCA to include provisions such as strengthened rules of origin (ROO) provisions, particularly for the aerospace industry.
  - IAM also supports other measures such as a minimum wage for industries in North America.
- **SUPPORT USTR Shipbuilding 301 remedies to bolster the domestic shipbuilding industry and address China's predatory trade practices.**
  - The IAM strongly supports the implementation of strong remedies from USTR in response to the Section 301 investigation into China's exploitative efforts to control the maritime, logistics, and shipbuilding sectors.
  - The IAM represents workers at shipyards and parts suppliers across the country with excess capacity to manufacture and repair US built commercial ships. These actions will help grow domestic shipbuilding for the sake of U.S. national and economic security.
- **SUPPORT free trade agreements (FTA's) and/or economic frameworks that include key provisions that:**
  - Benefits the American workforce.
  - Includes binding and enforceable labor provisions that will benefit and protect U.S. workers.
  - Help thwart the historic trend of corporations moving good-paying union jobs overseas.

**The IAM encourages fair and equal trade policy that offers American workers the chance to compete, which includes strategic use of tariffs against bad actors and a renegotiated USMCA.**