



IAM
UNION

International Association of Machinists
& Aerospace Workers

AMERICAN WORKERS' NEEDS FOR STRONG TRADE POLICIES

American trade policies should offer American workers the opportunity for job growth and development here before doing so anywhere else. We have seen bad trade deals like NAFTA and CAFTA, which resulted in the net loss of U.S. jobs. And our trade policies must ensure there are safety nets when offshoring or other similar situations occur when those trade deals negatively impact American jobs.

This Administration is in a prime position to renew and renegotiate trade tools and economic protections that can prevent the disastrous outcomes of poor trade choices in prior administrations.

That is why the IAM Union demands the following:

- 1. ENSURE Congress is engaged in the renegotiated USMCA trade deal that is now up for the mandated six-year review.**
 - USMCA stands for the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, which is the free trade pact between the three North American countries. It faces a review deadline of July 1, 2026—although discussions can continue past that date.
 - The USMCA is the largest, most-consequential trade deal of either of President Trump's terms.
 - Unfortunately, due to bad actor nations, the USMCA hasn't stopped hundreds of thousands of manufacturing and service jobs being sent away from the U.S.—negatively impacting American workers, their families, and their communities.
 - The IAM joins other unions in calling for a renegotiated USMCA to include provisions such as strengthened rules of origin (ROO) provisions, particularly for the aerospace industry, to protect our domestic production.
 - Aerospace manufacturing is deeply interconnected—especially between the U.S. and Canada—and highly vulnerable to disruption.
 - China is using Mexico as a transshipment location, which allows goods to be repackaged and essentially enter the United States tariff-free.
 - Mexico could also ultimately serve as a final assembly point for Chinese aerospace products, threatening jobs tied to Boeing, Airbus, and U.S. jet engine manufacturing.
 - It should also include safeguards through which a company that sends jobs outside of the US would face countervailing tariffs.
 - IAM also supports other measures, such as minimum wage standards for industries across North America, to prevent a race-to-the-bottom on where jobs are placed while protecting all workers from the predatory outcomes that follow.

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2. **APPLY selective and strategic tariffs against bad actor countries, not against key trade partners such as Canada—a nation critical to U.S. national security and supply chains in key industries such as aerospace.**
 - 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.
 - The IAM is a very diverse union that represents workers in both Canada and the U.S. If tariffs are not strategically applied, they will have lasting negative impacts on both American and Canadian workers.
 - In general, tariffs should be strategic in nature and combined with good industrial policy such as laws used to help grow domestic capacity in manufacturing and other sectors.

3. **REAUTHORIZE AND STRENGTHEN the US Export-Import (EX-IM) Bank** and allow it to continue to provide monetary support to U.S. exports that support U.S. jobs.
 - EX-IM fulfills this requirement through the application of domestic content requirements, which serve as a measure of each proposed transaction's support for U.S. jobs. These provisions support good jobs across the nation.
 - We must resist efforts to undermine domestic content and undermine the Bank's mission and American workers.
 - We should also strengthen the Make More in America Initiative (MMIA), which permits EX-IM to finance domestic manufacturing for the first time, as long as eligible transactions meet certain requirements.
 - If properly funded and staffed, MMIA will be a critical tool in strengthening the U.S. manufacturing industry, supporting U.S. jobs, and restoring the resiliency of supply chains.

Unfair conditions overseas impact U.S. workers who have to compete with nations stifling wages and suppressing workers' rights in key manufacturing industries.

That is why 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 and strengthened USMCA.