



For Immediate Release
February 11, 2025

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CAMMU Statement on Steel and Aluminum Tariffs

Washington, D.C. – The Coalition of American Metal Manufacturers and Users (CAMMU) today issued the following statement:

“Re-Imposing 25 percent tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from our allies and without a workable exclusion process puts U.S. manufacturers directly in harm’s way.

For the past six years, Section 232 tariffs have driven up steel and aluminum prices, even for manufacturers sourcing domestically. Lead times for these critical materials have also increased. As a result, U.S. manufacturers are paying significantly more for steel and aluminum than their global competitors, undermining their ability to compete. Small and medium-sized businesses are particularly vulnerable, losing contracts to overseas rivals with unrestricted access to these essential inputs. Downstream suppliers often cannot choose where they receive their steel and aluminum inputs. This is dictated by OEM’s, who also often determine the price for these inputs that they will pay.

Foreign customers are shifting their supply chains away from U.S. producers. Once removed, especially for smaller, family-owned businesses, it is difficult to regain that lost business.

Beyond manufacturing, the impact will extend to other sectors as major U.S. exports are hit with retaliatory tariffs from key trading partners. This trade war threatens manufacturing jobs that have benefited from other pro-manufacturing policies enacted by the Trump Administration. Expansion plans will stall, and companies will face tough decisions regarding technology investments, workforce retention, and long-term growth.”

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The Coalition of American Metal Manufacturers and Users (CAMMU) is a broad organization of U.S. businesses and trade associations representing over 30,000 companies and over one million American workers in the manufacturing sector and the downstream supply chains of industries including aerospace, agriculture, automotive, consumer goods, construction, defense, electrical, medical, and recreational, among others. For additional information, visit www.tariffsaretaxes.org.