

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 11, 2025

The President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you recently announced a 30-day delay on the implementation of the 25% tariffs on imported building materials from Canada and Mexico, we write as concerned members of Congress to underscore their harmful effects on housing affordability and economic growth.

Given the severe housing shortage, compounded by rising construction costs, persistent supply-chain disruptions, and an estimated shortfall of six million homes, these looming tariffs, while intended to protect domestic industries, risk further exacerbating the housing supply and affordability crisis while stifling the development of new housing.¹ In light of these challenges, we call for your administration to reconsider tariffs on Mexico and Canada to ensure that the escalating costs do not further restrict the development of affordable housing for American families.

The impact of these potential tariffs extends beyond increased costs; they would directly affect essential construction materials. In 2023, the United States imported \$8.5 billion worth of sawmill wood products, with approximately 70 percent of that volume sourced from Canada.² Many of these lumber imports already incur a 14.5 percent anti-dumping duty.³ Likewise, the nation imported \$456 million worth of lime and gypsum products critical for cement production and drywall manufacturing, with 71 percent originating from Mexico. These figures vividly illustrate our heavy reliance on imported building materials.²

Recognizing that any further cost increases on these critical inputs will have far-reaching consequences, analysis shows that these tariffs will raise the cost of imported construction materials by an estimated \$3 to \$4 billion.² In addition, construction input costs have surged by over 30 percent since January 2021, a rise that gets passed on to consumers, directly contributing to higher home prices and a slowdown in new construction activity, further burdening American families.⁴ The situation mirrors earlier tariff measures on Canadian softwood lumber that resulted in nearly \$9,000 in additional costs per single-family home.⁵

¹ NPR, *Housing Experts Say There Just Aren't Enough Homes in the U.S.* (Apr. 23, 2024) (online at <https://www.npr.org/2024/04/23/1246623204/housing-experts-say-there-just-arent-enough-homes-in-the-u-s>).

² National Association of Home Builders, *How Tariffs Impact Home Building* (online at <https://www.nahb.org/advocacy/top-priorities/material-costs/how-tariffs-impact-home-building>).

³ CBC News, *Lumber Duties Trump in British Columbia* (accessed Feb. 3, 2025) (online at <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/lumber-duties-trump-british-columbia-1.7377335>).

⁴ Construction Dive, *Construction Input Prices Hold Steady* (accessed Feb. 3, 2025) (online at <https://www.constructiondive.com/news/construction-input-prices-hold-steady/737355/>).

⁵ Forest Resources, *A Discussion Around Tariffs on CDN Lumber* (Dec. 19, 2024) (online at <https://forestresources.org/2024/12/19/a-discussion-around-tariffs-on-cdn-lumber/>).

In light of these urgent challenges and the tangible impact on American communities, we urge you to revise looming tariff policies that are poised to further exacerbate the housing crisis. We also call on you to reexamine the broader economic implications of these tariffs to ensure that efforts to protect domestic industries do not inadvertently suppress domestic construction or undermine economic stability. Your prompt intervention is essential to prevent further increases in housing costs and to sustain progress toward a more resilient and affordable housing market.

Immediate action will not only shield American families from escalating housing costs but also demonstrate leadership in steering our nation toward sustainable economic growth. We stand ready to work with you and other stakeholders to develop a balanced trade policy that bolsters domestic manufacturing while ensuring that safe, affordable housing remains accessible to all citizens.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this critical matter. We look forward to your response and to collaborating on solutions that promote robust economic growth, protect American families, and secure a vibrant housing market for the future.

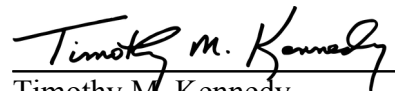
Sincerely,



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress



Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



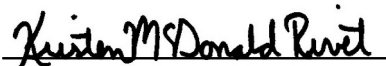
Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



Sylvester Turner
Member of Congress



Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress



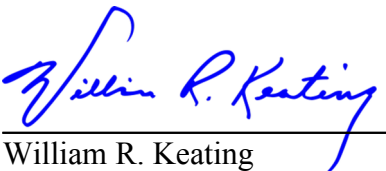
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



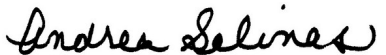
Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



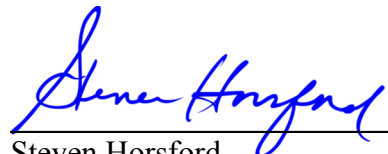
William R. Keating
Member of Congress



Brad Sherman
Member of Congress



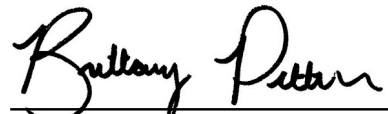
Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Steven Horsford
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



George Latimer
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



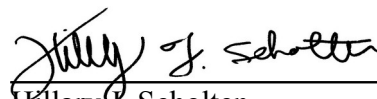
Andre Carson
Member of Congress



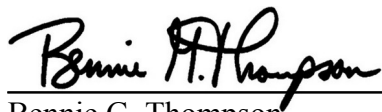
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Susie Lee
Member of Congress




Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress



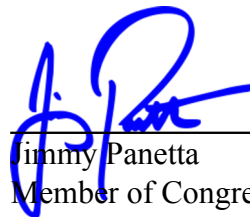
Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



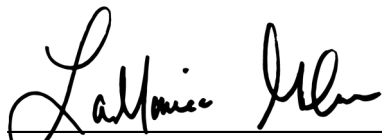
Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle
Member of Congress



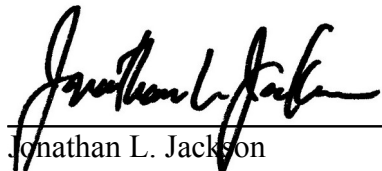
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Jonathan L. Jackson
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



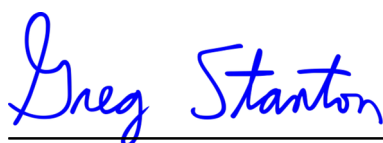
Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress



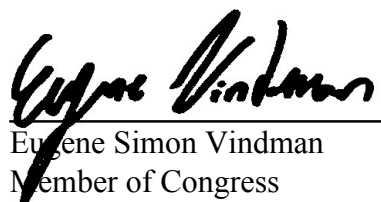
Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



Laura Friedman
Member of Congress



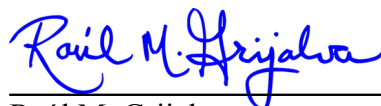
Greg Stanton
Member of Congress



Eugene Simon Vindman
Member of Congress



Darren Soto
Member of Congress



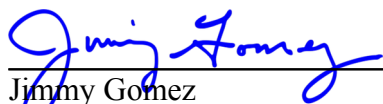
Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



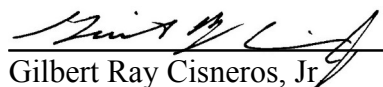
Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



Gabe Amo
Member of Congress

CC:

The Honorable Jeremy Pelter
Acting Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
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Washington, D.C. 20230