Top Legislative Priorities

Trade

Equipment manufacturers support trade policies that keep the industry strong and the 2.8 million men and women of the industry employed.

Our Position

With about 30 percent of equipment manufactured in the United States destined for export, free and fair trade policies and agreements are vital to the industry’s prosperity. Equipment manufacturers rely on mutually beneficial trade relationships with our partners because open, two-way trade and investment means more opportunity for every American.

Policy Priorities

Free and fair trade is vital to America’s economic prosperity. Exporting goods and attracting foreign direct investment in U.S. equipment manufacturing is now more important than ever for communities across our country.

Canada and Mexico are the two largest export markets for U.S.-made equipment and are part of critical North American supply chains for the industry. Sustaining and strengthening U.S. trade with these partners will support U.S. economic growth and job creation. That is why AEM supported the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) and encourages the U.S. Congress to make sure that it is enforced in a way that empowers equipment manufacturers to continue to invest in their people and communities. China engages in unfair trade and investment practices, preventing U.S. companies from competing on a level playing field and hurting U.S. workers. AEM urges the Administration to negotiate solutions to these long-standing issues with China and de-escalate economic tensions while removing tariffs. The Administration must work with our national allies to advocate for meaningful reforms in China to improve trading practices and allow American businesses to compete in the 21st century economy.

Tariffs are taxes paid by American consumers on goods being imported into the United States. While the unilateral imposition of tariffs may be permitted under U.S. law under special circumstances, the misuse of tariffs under these laws can create trade wars that hurt American companies, workers, and farmers across our nation.

Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 provides the President with authority to restrict imports for national security purposes. While rarely used, the Administration has recently used Section 232 to impose tariffs on several critical manufacturing inputs and capital goods. Using “national security” arguments under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 to restrict imports undermines the United States’ ability to coordinate and institute trade policy reform. AEM urges Congress to support bipartisan legislation to ensure that Section 232 actions are taken only in cases of legitimate national security concerns, preserving this important tool while also boosting transparency, accountability, and Congress’ role in the Section 232 process.

2.8 MILLION

equipment manufacturing jobs

supported across all 50 states

The U.S. equipment manufacturing industry generates roughly

$288 BILLION

a year to our economy

Equipment manufacturers support

About 30%
of construction and agricultural equipment manufactured in the United States is intended for export

The average income of equipment manufacturing job is

35% above the national average

aem.org/advocacy