



David McCall
International President

March 24, 2025

Via Email

U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: United Steelworkers urges support for S.J. Res. 37 to terminate the emergency declaration used to impose tariffs on Canadian imports.

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the 850,000 active members of the United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union (USW), I urge you to support S.J. Res. 37, a resolution introduced by Senator Tim Kaine to terminate the national emergency that was declared to impose duties on imports from Canada, under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA).

For decades, the USW has stood at the forefront of the fight for fair trade. We have consistently called on administrations of both parties to use every available tool — including tariffs — when countries engage in unfair practices that cost American workers their jobs. We have supported strong trade enforcement measures to address global overcapacity, prevent dumping, and uphold labor standards. However, these new tariffs are misdirected, unsubstantiated by facts, and harmful to the very workers we represent.

The national emergency declaration on the northern border attempts to justify tariffs on imports from Canada by linking them to the flow of fentanyl into the United States. According to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, though, over 96 percent of fentanyl seizures occur at the southern border; seizures at the northern border account for less than 1 percent of the total.¹ Canada is not the problem. Even despite that, the country is stepping up to be part of the solution — investing in joint enforcement operations, banning fentanyl analogues, and expanding cooperation with U.S. authorities.² Punishing our closest trading partner under false pretenses not only undermines those efforts, it risks the stability of cross-border supply chains that support good union jobs.


¹ [U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#), “Stats and Summaries – Drug Seizure Statistic”, March 12, 2025.

² [Market Watch](#), “Statement by the Prime Minister on unjustified U.S. tariffs against Canada”, March 3, 2025.

The damage doesn't end there. Economic instability is one of the most powerful contributors to substance abuse. Researchers at institutions like UCLA and the National Institutes of Health have confirmed what working families already know: when jobs disappear and communities are hollowed out, substance abuse rises.^{3,4} If we are serious about addressing the fentanyl crisis, we need to invest in economic security, not destabilize it with unnecessary trade measures.

For these reasons, USW urges Congress to use its authority within the National Emergencies Act to review the facts, assess the policy impact, and act in our nation's best interest by bringing such a declaration to an end.⁵ Working people we represent are counting on trade policy that is focused, fact-driven, and grounded in reality — not rhetoric.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David McCall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line through the middle of the "C" in "Call".

David McCall
International President

³ [University of California, Los Angeles Nursing](#), "Opioid addiction crisis in United States linked to poor working conditions and unemployment", May 27, 2022.

⁴ [U.S. NIH National Library of Medicine](#), "Unemployment and Substance Use: An Updated Review of Studies from North America and Europe", April 20, 2023.

⁵ 50 U.S.C. § 1622(a).