



April 1, 2025

To all members of the United States Senate:

Sean McGarvey  
*President*

Brandon W. Bishop  
*Secretary-Treasurer*

Frank J. Christensen  
*Elevator Constructors*

Eric M. Dean  
*Ironworkers*

Mark McManus  
*UA*

Timothy J. Driscoll  
*BAC*

James Williams Jr.  
*Painters and Allied Trades*

James A. Hadel  
*Roofers*

Sean M. O'Brien  
*Teamsters*

Terry M. Larkin  
*Insulators*

Kenneth W. Cooper  
*IBEW*

Kevin D. Sexton  
*Plasterers' and  
Cement Masons'*

Brent Booker  
*LIUNA*

Michael Coleman  
*SMART*

Timothy Simmons  
*Boilermakers*

John L. Downey  
*Operating Engineers*

On behalf of more than 3 million unionized construction workers and their families across the United States and Canada, North America's Building Trades Unions (NABTU) strongly supports S.J. Resolution 37, which would halt the anticipated and unprecedented attacks on Canada from the misuse of national emergency powers and unjustified tariffs.

The United States and Canada share far more than just a border—we share a deep, enduring economic and workforce partnership that has strengthened both our nations for generations. Canada and the U.S. are not competitors, enemies, or low-wage exporting zones; we are trusted allies in our joint pursuit of shared prosperity.

That partnership is enshrined in the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA), a comprehensive trade agreement that President Trump himself negotiated and enacted that already governs our economic relations in this hemisphere. As one of the major policy achievements of his administration, the USMCA was set up to ensure fairness, predictability, and strong labor standards across the border. By circumventing this agreement and imposing unilateral tariffs on Canada, the Administration is harmfully undermining a key foreign ally while also carelessly shooting holes in the credibility of its own signature economic policy.

Tariffs, when deployed strategically, can be a useful tool. However, when misapplied—without a clear plan, shifting justifications, and inconsistent messaging—they are reckless. Reckless tariffs don't hurt foreign adversaries; they hurt American workers.

If the Trump Administration aims to take on unfair trade practices, defend U.S. manufacturing and protect American workers, its focus should be where the real threat lies: China. China is the world's most persistent violator of fair trade rules, labor rights, and market fairness. It exploits loopholes in trade enforcement, flooding our markets and undercutting American labor at every turn. China is our real threat—not Canada.

Unfortunately, the Administration's tariff threats and erratic actions are already taking a toll on our unions, members, and their families on both sides of the border. We are seeing construction projects slowing down, infrastructure investments being delayed, and economic momentum weakening – resulting in smaller paychecks, fewer jobs, and shrinking opportunities for skilled building trades workers. The longer this uncertainty lingers, the worse the damage will be in both countries.

NABTU remains committed to safeguarding the jobs, economic stability, and long-term prosperity for our members—the skilled building trades professionals who are building North America's future and driving our economies forward.

For these reasons, we urge all Senators to **VOTE YES** on S.J. Resolution 37.

Sincerely,

Sean McGarvey  
President