

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 8, 2025

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20230

The Honorable Jeffrey Kessler
Under Secretary for Industry and Security
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick and Under Secretary Kessler,

I write to follow up on our previous discussions regarding the need to extend the section 232 tariffs on steel derivatives to cover the full value of imported steel-containing appliances.

The goal of the section 232 action is to achieve appropriate utilization of U.S. steel production capacity, and to do so, we must ensure that our market is not flooded by imported derivative steel-containing products. However, I am concerned that steel intensive appliances like washers, dryers, refrigerators, and more, are being imported with low or no duties and undercutting domestic producers.

Trade data show that from 2018, when the original 232 tariffs were imposed, to today, imports of major home appliances have doubled from four Asian countries, all of whom import significant quantities of Chinese appliance-grade steel. Clearly, these imports are rising to evade the section 232 tariffs and undercut American appliance manufacturers and their workers who use domestic melted and poured steel and U.S. supply chains to manufacture products. It is critical that these orders from U.S. appliance manufacturers remain strong to support the goal of 80% capacity utilization in the U.S. steel industry.

Taking action against these imports would benefit many U.S. industries, including companies in Ohio like Whirlpool, and lead to more good jobs, more consumption of U.S. steel, and a positive ripple effect through our economy. U.S. manufacturers have excess capacity ready to go to ensure that the market can absorb increased demand for U.S.-made appliances without shortages or exorbitant price increases.

Therefore, I request you give full consideration to expanding the section 232 derivative products tariffs to cover the full value of imported steel intensive appliance products. Please follow up with me or my office if you have any questions or if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,



Bernie Moreno
U.S. Senator