

ISSUE BRIEF

New survey of NAFEM members quantifies negative impact of tariffs; members encouraged to contact elected officials

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What is the issue?

Tariffs on Chinese imports and steel and aluminum imported from the EU, Canada and Mexico are hurting the U.S. commercial foodservice equipment manufacturing industry, according to a recent survey of NAFEM members¹.

More than 80 percent of respondents to the NAFEM survey reported that import tariffs have negatively impacted their businesses. Specifically:

- 50 percent said tariffs on Chinese imports are impacting their ability to compete and 53 percent said these tariffs are hurting sales;
- 56 percent said that tariffs on imported steel and aluminum have impaired their ability to compete and 47 percent said these tariffs are hurting sales.

The majority of NAFEM members surveyed also reported that tariffs on Chinese imports and imported steel and aluminum are raising material costs by anywhere from 6 to 15 percent.

Although trade negotiations with China continue, there is no relief proposed from tariffs on steel and aluminum imported from Canada and Mexico in the United States – Mexico – Canada Agreement that is now awaiting approval from all three countries.

What is NAFEM doing to address this issue?

NAFEM conducted the survey to quantify the negative impact of the tariffs on members' businesses. The Association shared this information in a [press release](#) sent to national media, senators in all 50 states and other collaborative partners working to eliminate the tariffs, including the [National Association of Manufacturers](#) (NAM), the [Coalition of American Metal Manufacturers and Users](#) (CAMMU) and the [Alliance for Competitive Steel and Aluminum](#). NAFEM also shared details of the survey findings on its [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#) social media channels.

Additionally, NAFEM continues to work and communicate with elected officials, including Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI) and Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA), on their efforts to reverse the tariffs.

What is Congress doing to address this issue?

The bi-partisan [Bicameral Congressional Trade Authority Act of 2019](#) was introduced in the House and Senate in late January. If passed, the Act would require congressional approval of any new tariffs imposed for national security reasons. The bill would apply to all tariffs imposed for national security reasons in the past four years, including the steel and aluminum tariffs.

What should my company do to address this issue?

It is imperative that elected officials understand the business impact of tariffs on NAFEM member companies in their states/districts. Members should contact their U.S. Senators and Representatives, to indicate their continued opposition to the tariffs. To help, we've attached a toolkit of communications materials.

Who should I contact with questions?

For questions on this topic, please contact Charlie Souhrada, CFSP, NAFEM's vice president, regulatory & technical affairs: csouhrada@nafem.org or +1.312.821.0212; or visit www.nafem.org.

¹ NAFEM surveyed its 550 members in January 2019. Eight percent of members responded