

Americans Support Policies that Strengthen the Domestic Steel Industry

The domestic steel industry is a cornerstone of America's economic strength and national security, supplying the high-quality steel that underpins military and critical infrastructure capabilities from naval vessels and armored vehicles to bridges and power systems. **And Americans agree.** Public opinion research conducted by Morning Consult in 2025 shows that Americans overwhelmingly believe it is important to manufacture steel domestically rather than relying on imports for national defense and critical infrastructure needs. And to ensure that domestic manufacturing capabilities remain strong, Americans strongly support a range of policy solutions – including modernizing our trade laws, enforcing strong Buy America policies, and preventing countries like China from distorting our markets.

Trade Policy	
Public Opinion	Action Item
70% to 10% Americans decisively agree that it is important to manufacture steel domestically rather than rely on imports for national defense and critical infrastructure needs	Support the Section 232 Steel Action Protects our economic and national security against global overcapacity in steel and downstream derivative products.
76% to 5% Americans overwhelmingly believe it is important to update U.S. laws that combat unfairly traded imports – which have not been updated in over a decade.	Leveling the Playing Field 2.0 Act (HR. 1548 / S. 691) Modernizes our antidumping and countervailing duty (AD / CVD) trade remedy laws to keep up with new and evolving tactics used by China and other countries to evade and circumvent them.
70% to 8% Americans support stronger penalties, including suspending importing privileges, for repeat offenders of trade violations.	Fighting Trade Cheats Act (H.R. 1284) Imposes stronger penalties for bad actors that repeatedly violate U.S. trade laws.
68% to 9% Americans want the federal government to prioritize prosecuting individuals and companies who repeatedly conduct unfair trade practices.	Protecting American Industry and Labor (PAIL) from International Trade Crimes Act (H.R. 1869) Establishes a task force within the U.S. Department of Justice to prioritize and combat foreign trade crimes.
In the 2026 USMCA Joint Review process, 93% say protecting U.S. workers from job loss should be a priority; 86% say the U.S. should prevent surges of imports that could disrupt the U.S. economy; and 83% want factories that were outsourced to other countries brought back to the U.S.	Strengthen USMCA Rules of Origin Prevents China from gaining "backdoor" access to our market and keeps industrial overcapacity in steel and other products from distorting our market.

<p>52% of Americans believe the revenues from trade remedy tools (e.g., AD/CVD) should be used to support the industries, workers, and communities harmed by unfairly traded goods.</p> <p>Just 17% want these revenues directed to funding the government.</p> <p>And among those who think tariff revenues should be used for groups harmed by unfair trade, 77% agreed that industries critical to U.S. national security should be prioritized.</p>	<p>Resilient Communities Act (S. 3425 / 118th)</p> <p>Directs antidumping and countervailing duty collections to communities that have been negatively affected by unfair trade and where injured companies and their workers are positioned to increase production and employment.</p>
<p>72% to 10%</p> <p>There is broad agreement that America's shipbuilding is too critical to our military and commercial success for us to remain dependent on foreign manufacturers to build our ships.</p>	<p>SHIPS for America Act (S. 1541 / H.R. 3151)</p> <p>Adopts a federal policy framework to rebuild U.S. maritime infrastructure and workforce capabilities through the creation of a Maritime Security Trust Fund, capitalized by existing fees and revenues from the Section 301 action (set to take effect in late-2026).</p>

Buy America and Restrictions on China	
<i>Public Opinion</i>	<i>Action Item</i>
<p>69% to 13%</p> <p>Americans say taxpayer dollars should fund infrastructure projects using American-made products rather than imports.</p>	<p>Support Strong Buy America Laws</p> <p>Ensures that domestic producers and America's workers are given the first opportunity to supply the steel and other inputs to our taxpayer-funded public works infrastructure.</p>
<p>68% to 17%</p> <p>Americans are concerned over national security risks of allowing foreign companies, especially those connected to China, to participate in U.S. infrastructure projects.</p> <p>A combined 67% of Americans prefer taxpayer funding for transit buses and railcars go to "Only American Companies" or "Companies based in the U.S. or allied countries" while just 13% of approve of taxpayer funding for transit buses and railcars being awarded to "Any company – including Chinese firms."</p>	<p>Safeguarding Transit Operations to Prohibit (STOP) China Act (H.R. 4361 / S.1711)</p> <p>Defends America's transit rolling stock manufacturing base, workforce, and critical infrastructure from Chinese state-backed control and disruption.</p>

Source: Morning Consult "Trade & Tariffs" poll of 2,202 U.S. adults, October 2025, +/-2%; Morning Consult "Infrastructure & Buy America" poll of 2,205 U.S. adults, October 2025, +/-2%; Morning Consult "Shipbuilding" poll of 2,204 U.S. adults, March 2025, +/-2-6%.

AAM is a non-profit, non-partisan partnership formed in 2007 by some of America's leading manufacturers and the United Steelworkers. Our mission is to strengthen American manufacturing and create new private-sector jobs through smart public policies. We believe that an innovative and growing manufacturing base is vital to America's economic and national security, as well as to providing good jobs for future generations. AAM achieves its mission through research, public education, advocacy, strategic communications, and coalition building around the issues that matter most to America's manufacturers and workers.