

My company is part of the U.S. tool building industry, which comprises more than 500 businesses and employs more than 72,000 Americans. I am writing to you today to encourage you to support reinstating the 25% tariffs on mold and mold bases manufactured in China.

In July 2018, the U.S. implemented a 25% tariff on \$34 billion worth of Chinese imports, including molds and mold bases. This tariff was subsequently suspended at the end of December. The reason stated for lifting the tariff was that the U.S. lacked available capacity to build molds. However, this is not correct, the current average U.S. mold building capacity utilization is 74%, which mean there is 26% of open capacity.

The mold making industry is vital to the U.S. economy: Molds are a critical part of tooling, and tooling is essential for the manufacturing of all durable goods in the country. The decision to lift the tariff is hurting U.S. mold builders as it is now significantly cheaper to source and build tools in China and many manufacturers are utilizing China-based suppliers to produce molds. Additionally, Chinese-owned shops are selling molds and dies to U.S. manufacturers up to 40% below the cost of molds produced in a domestic shop which is arguably dumping of tools into this country.

By lifting the tariffs, the American mold manufacturing industry has been disrupted. In fact:

- Mold shops across the country have been forced into bankruptcy or closure due to lack of business; and
- More than 1,000 skilled workers have been laid off just since January 2019

(Insert personal story if applicable)

As a mold builder who is directly impacted by lifting these tariffs, I would like to schedule a meeting with you to share more information on the importance of the tooling industry to the state as well as the U.S. Additionally, I want to provide insights that will encourage you to contact the United States Trade Representative (USTR) and tell them to reinstate the 25% tariff on molds and mold bases build in China. This action will create a balanced playing field for U.S. mold builders.

Thank you!

(Name)

(Company Name)

(Address)

(Phone Number)