



NECA Regulatory Alert

FROM THE NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

July 8, 2025

Proposed Copper Tariffs

On July 8, 2025, President Trump announced his intention to raise tariffs on imported copper by 50%; a decision that would have serious consequences on our industry. The Government Affairs team is well aware that copper is the most critical material for NECA contractors, and this kind of price shock would immediately drive-up costs on projects across the country, from energy infrastructure to commercial construction.

NECA has been fighting this proposed tariff increase all year and have been successful in keeping it off the table until now. We've made our case directly to policymakers in both Congress and the administration, warning that raising copper tariffs will strain supply chains, inflate project costs, and slow down the very infrastructure and energy deployment goals the nation is trying to achieve.

We are not done fighting.

NECA's Government Affairs team is actively engaging with senior White House officials, USTR representatives, and congressional leaders on both sides of the aisle. We are emphasizing the real-world impact this tariff would have on electrical contractors — especially small and mid-sized firms — and how it risks undermining ongoing infrastructure, energy, and semiconductor projects funded through the bipartisan infrastructure law, CHIPS Act, and Inflation Reduction Act.

NECA's Actions Right Now

- **Direct Outreach to the Administration:** We already have meeting requests with the White House, the U.S. Trade Representative, and the Commerce Secretary to make the case for exempting critical construction-grade copper products from any tariff hike. Our messaging focuses on economic impact, workforce strain, and project delivery timelines.
- **Congressional Engagement:** Our team is already contacting their U.S. Senators and Representatives, especially those serving on key committees such as Ways and Means, Energy and Commerce, and Senate Finance.
- **Coalition Building:** NECA is looking to coordinate with national construction trade associations, major suppliers, and organized labor to form a unified front. We are planning joint statements, shared data reports, and a potential industry-wide sign-on letter urging the administration to reconsider.
- **Regulatory Strategy:** Should this tariff go forward, NECA is preparing to formally petition for exemptions or relief mechanisms for construction materials. We are also closely tracking implementation timelines and will provide compliance guidance to members if needed.

We will continue to push back forcefully and strategically and will keep you informed every step of the way.

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