



Advocacy Alert:

AFS Secures Win in Copper Tariff Case

THE ISSUE

In early 2024, the U.S. Commerce Department launched a Section 232 National Security Investigation into imports of copper and related products. Potential tariffs on raw copper, copper alloys, and certain copper derivatives raised significant concerns for U.S. foundries. Imposing broad tariffs risked increasing production costs, disrupting supply chains, and limiting the availability of raw materials essential to manufacturing military, infrastructure, and industrial products.

AFS ADVOCACY

AFS gathered member input and submitted formal comments urging to avoid imposing tariffs on raw copper, brass, bronze, and copper alloys until domestic supply could meet manufacturing needs. AFS also shared its comments with the U.S. Trade Representative, the Commerce Department, and select members of Congress, reinforcing the importance of maintaining access to essential copper inputs.

THE POSITIVE OUTCOME

On August 1, the Trump Administration announced a 50% tariff on certain finished copper products, such as pipe and wire, but refrained from taxing less processed forms like concentrate, cathodes, and scrap. This decision preserves U.S. foundries' access to critical raw copper while offering protection to domestic manufacturers producing copper-containing goods. The result was a significant win for foundries, safeguarding both supply stability and competitive advantage in key manufacturing sectors.