

Public Comment on Section 232 Investigation into Robotics and Industrial Machinery Imports

To the U.S. Department of Commerce:

Oakland County, Michigan is one of the nation's leading centers of advanced manufacturing which includes hundreds of robotics and automation companies. The region's workforce and innovation ecosystems are dependent on these industries, and naturally we are concerned about the potential negative impacts that tariffs on robotics and industrial machinery imports could have on our community.

Economic Effect on Oakland County

In 2024 the Machinery and Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing industries:

- Contributed **\$3.5 billion** to our economy.
- Supported over **20,000 local jobs**, with average annual earnings above **\$110,000** per job.
- Generated **\$4.4 billion** in total spending.

Today Oakland County is home to several global robotics manufacturers and integrators, along with a growing number of start-up robotics, AI, and automation firms.

Our collaborative efforts with industry leaders, universities, students, and research facilities are helping to build a robust ecosystem that blends industry, academia, and entrepreneurs. We believe this collaboration is exactly the type of domestic foundation that the U.S. needs to reduce reliance on foreign suppliers.

Potential Consequences of Broad Tariffs

We recognize the importance of strengthening national security, but imposing tariffs on robotics and industrial machinery imports could create significant unintended consequences:

1. **Higher costs for employers.**
2. **Reduced investment in modernization.**
3. **A reduction in jobs and economic growth.**
4. **Instability for global and local companies.**

Conclusion

Oakland County is proud to be a national leader in robotics and advanced manufacturing. The region continues to actively invest in our startups, workforce development, and university-industry partnerships to ensure we remain competitive in automation and emerging technologies. We believe tariffs would risk undermining this leadership, slowing our progress, and weakening our competitiveness.

We encourage the Department of Commerce to consider targeted approaches or exemptions that protect critical industries and sustain growth of U.S. competitiveness in robotics and advanced manufacturing.