



February 3, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

On behalf of the Institute of Makers of Explosives (IME), I write to urge you to exempt commercial explosives products and their key inputs—such as HMX, RDX, TNT, ammonia, and ammonium nitrate—from the recently announced tariffs on imports from Canada, Mexico, and China. Commercial explosives products, classified under Chapter 36 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule, along with necessary inputs including ammonia and ammonium nitrate, are essential to achieving several of your administration's priorities, including energy dominance, critical domestic mineral production, and infrastructure development.

A 25% tariff on imports from Canada and Mexico and a 10% tariff on imports from China would not only harm the commercial explosives industry but also increase costs and disrupt supply chains across multiple sectors.

The U.S. commercial explosives industry contributes over \$19 billion annually to the economy, supporting 15,000 direct jobs and more than 60,000 total jobs. Our industry is critical to the \$2.2 trillion quarry and construction industry, the \$812 billion energy sector, and the \$121.7 billion mining industry. Simply put, [explosives help build America](#).

Commercial explosives ensure a reliable and affordable energy supply, playing a key role in the extraction of coal, oil, and natural gas, as well as the critical minerals needed for renewable energy technologies. Additionally, they are vital for infrastructure projects, including roads, bridges, and buildings that support American commerce and daily life.

IME stands ready to collaborate with you to achieve your goals. However, we respectfully request that you consider the significant negative impact these tariffs would have on our industry and those we support. We urge you to exempt commercial explosives and their necessary inputs from these tariffs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Clark Mica', with a stylized flourish at the end.

J. Clark Mica  
President