

State of Vermont

House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Joint House Resolution

J.R.H. 2

Offered by Representatives Page of Newport City, Berbeco of Winooski, Black of Essex, Bos-Lun of Westminster, Burke of Brattleboro, Campbell of St. Johnsbury, Cina of Burlington, Cordes of Bristol, Critchlow of Colchester, Demar of Enosburgh, Donahue of Northfield, Goldman of Rockingham, Harrison of Chittenden, Headrick of Burlington, Keyser of Rutland City, Labor of Morgan, Lipsky of Stowe, Luneau of St. Albans City, Marcotte of Coventry, McFaun of Barre Town, Nelson of Derby, Sabilia of Dover, and Surprenant of Barnard

Joint resolution urging President Trump to refrain from imposing tariffs on goods and services imported from Canada

Whereas, the United States and Canada have been military and diplomatic allies and economic partners, even through episodes of commercial disagreement, since Canadian confederation in 1867, and most especially from World War II forward, and

Whereas, according to TD Bank, during the first three quarters of 2024, approximately \$683 billion in combined goods and services was shipped in both directions across the United States-Canada border, and

Whereas, the same report also noted that Canada is the United States' number one export market, and

Whereas, significant elements of this trade are integrated, especially in the automobile manufacturing sector, and

Whereas, even closer to home, the personal and commercial ties between Vermont and Canada are among the closest of any American state to its northern neighbor, and

Whereas, the personal aspect of this relationship is reflected in the State of Vermont offering its residents enhanced IDs for driver and nondriver identification, in order to facilitate easier cross-border travel, and

Whereas, for 2023, the Canadian Consulate in Boston reported that Vermont exported \$680 million in goods and \$165 million in services to Canada, and

Whereas, in 2023, Vermont imported \$2.6 billion in goods from Canada and Canadian investments in the State supported over 17,000 Vermont jobs, and

Whereas, according to the Department of Public Service, in 2023, 24 percent of Vermont's electric supply portfolio was served by Hydro-Québec, aside from any renewable energy credits, and Vermont Gas Systems receives 100 percent of its gas from Canada, and

Whereas, in recent years, Governor Philip Scott has repeatedly traveled to Montreal on trade missions and has strived to enhance Vermont-Quebec trade ties, and

Whereas, on Monday February 3, 2025, the United States came within hours of imposing a 25 percent tariff on most Canadian products entering our country and a corresponding 10 percent tariff on energy products and services, and

Whereas, the Government of Canada was prepared to respond in kind had the United States proceeded with its announced intentions to implement these tariffs, and

Whereas, shortly before the deadline, the United States announced a 30-day delay before any tariffs with Canada might be imposed, leaving a sense of immediate relief but a period of worrisome uncertainty, and

Whereas, the United States imports more steel and aluminum from Canada than from any other nation, and the 25 percent universally applicable tariff on these products, which the United States announced on February 10, 2025, will significantly impact both nations' economies, and

Whereas, the separate issue of a possible 25 percent tariff on most Canadian goods entering the United States and an associated 10 percent tariff on imports of Canadian energy products, along with the economic and daily living implications for Vermont and Vermonters, remains on the table, and

Whereas, Governor Philip Scott has established an interagency task force to prepare for the still real potential that these proposed tariffs, aside from those already imposed on steel and aluminum, will take effect, and

Whereas, although the Governor's foresight to develop a contingency plan for the worst-case scenario is prudent and appropriate, the ideal situation would be for the task force's contingencies to prove unnecessary, as the dueling tariffs could result in a disruption in long-established industrial and other commercial relationships and agreements, and the two nation's tariffs could prove costly for consumers on both sides of our shared international boundary, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly urges President Donald J. Trump to refrain from imposing tariffs on goods and services imported into the United States from Canada, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to President Donald J. Trump, Governor Philip B. Scott, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada, Premier François Legault, and the Vermont Congressional Delegation.