



# Support Strengthened Buy American Provisions

**T**he U.S. metalcasting industry is the backbone of American manufacturing, producing highly engineered iron, steel and nonferrous metal castings used in 90 percent of all manufactured durable goods and nearly all manufacturing machinery. Metalcasters also produce vital components for our nation's military systems. In the last five years, U.S federal agencies have spent more than \$30 billion on goods manufactured by foreign firms. The Department of Defense (DoD), the largest purchaser of manufactured goods in the world, has spent in excess of \$200 billion on manufactured goods made by foreign companies since 2007.

Under current law, federal agencies can use domestic content waivers to Buy American laws to purchase goods or services from foreign companies when an American-made good is unavailable or there is a significant cost difference. The U.S. metalcasting industry is alarmed by the wide-spread use of these waivers and the lack of a government-wide system to track. When awarding government contracts, it makes sense to reinvest our U.S. taxpayer dollars in the local economy and support local jobs.

Bipartisan legislation, the BuyAmerican.gov Act of 2019, was recently introduced in both chambers that would:

- Create a centralized, publicly available website through the General Services Administration (GSA) to track and display any requested waivers to Buy American laws at the link currently established as BuyAmerican.gov
- Allow manufacturers to identify contract opportunities and hold federal agencies accountable when issuing Buy American waivers
- Offer manufacturers the chance to challenge pending waivers sought by federal agencies
- Require agencies to report on the implementation of, and compliance with, Buy American laws

## MESSAGE TO CONGRESS

The American Foundry Society (AFS) urges lawmakers to:

- **Cosponsor and Support Passage of the BuyAmerican.gov Act of 2019 (S. 1324/H.R. 2472)**
  - This bill will bring a much-needed system of checks and balances to ensure that federal agencies follow Buy American laws, prioritize the purchase of American-made goods, and close loopholes in the waiver process.

This legislation was introduced in the Senate by Senators **Rob Portman (R-OH)**, **Sherrod Brown (D-OH)**, **Chris Murphy (D-CT)**, and **Lindsey Graham (R-SC)**, and a companion measure in the House of Representatives by Congressmen **Dan Lipinski (D-IL-3)** and **Mike Bost (R-IL-12)**.

**To cosponsor the BuyAmerican.gov Act of 2019, contact:**

### **SENATE:**

**Sam Mulopulos**, [Sam\\_Mulopulos@portman.senate.gov](mailto:Sam_Mulopulos@portman.senate.gov), Legislative Assistant, Office of **Sen. Portman**, or **Nora Todd**, [Nora\\_Todd@brown.senate.gov](mailto:Nora_Todd@brown.senate.gov), Senior Advisor, Office of **Sen. Brown**.

### **HOUSE:**

**Alex Beckmann**, [Alexander.Beckmann@mail.house.gov](mailto:Alexander.Beckmann@mail.house.gov), Office of **Rep. Dan Lipinski**, or **Mark Ratto**, [Mark.Ratto@mail.house.gov](mailto:Mark.Ratto@mail.house.gov), Legislative Director, Office of **Rep. Mike Bost**.

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