## S.J. Res. 88, Joint Resolution Terminating Global Tariffs

Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee Chair Rand Paul (R-KY)

Bipartisan Wyden-Paul legislation—a binding, privileged bill that must receive a vote on the Senate floor—would immediately terminate Trump's tariff taxes on Americans' purchases from 180+ countries.

President Trump imposed across-the-board tariffs on nearly everything Americans buy from nearly every country in the world in April, and he has paused, re-started, and raised them in chaotic fashion multiple times since then. As a result, prices are climbing, small businesses are scrambling, manufacturers are laying off workers, and uncertainty is halting domestic investments and supply chain decisions. Farmers and ranchers are hurting as key trading partners diversify away from American agriculture.

Congress, which has constitutional authority over trade and tariffs, must rein in this executive overreach. President Trump imposed these tariffs pursuant to an Executive Order (EO) that declared a national emergency related to the United States' trade deficit in goods. In April 2025, the Senate voted on a bipartisan Wyden-Paul resolution (S.J. Res. 49) to terminate the emergency President Trump declared and overturn the global tariffs. While that resolution narrowly failed, the statute allows for a vote on a similar resolution every six months. Senators Wyden and Paul have reintroduced the resolution as S.J. Res. 88, which is subject to a simple-majority vote and is expected to receive a vote on the Senate floor as early as late October.

## **Background:**

On April 2, 2025, citing the "national emergency arising from conditions reflected in large and persistent annual U.S. goods trade deficits," President Trump issued an <u>EO</u> claiming authority under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) to impose tariffs on nearly all countries.

On April 5, he imposed an additional 10% tariff on all imports from all countries entering the United States, subject to limited exclusions. As of August 7, higher, country-specific tariff rates of up to 40% are in effect for over five dozen countries listed in the EO (with most other countries subject to the default 10% rate). This includes, for example, tariffs of 39% on imported goods from Switzerland, 20% on imports from Taiwan, and 19% on imports from Malaysia and Thailand.

In August, the U.S. Federal Circuit affirmed the U.S. Court of International Trade's decision that IEEPA does not authorize the President to impose the global tariffs.

Because the President imposed these tariffs under IEEPA emergency authority, Congress can follow an expedited statutory process to terminate the national emergency—and in this case, eliminate the tariffs—by enacting a joint resolution of disapproval. S.J. Res. 88 would terminate the national emergency declared on April 2 and the tariff actions taken pursuant to it.