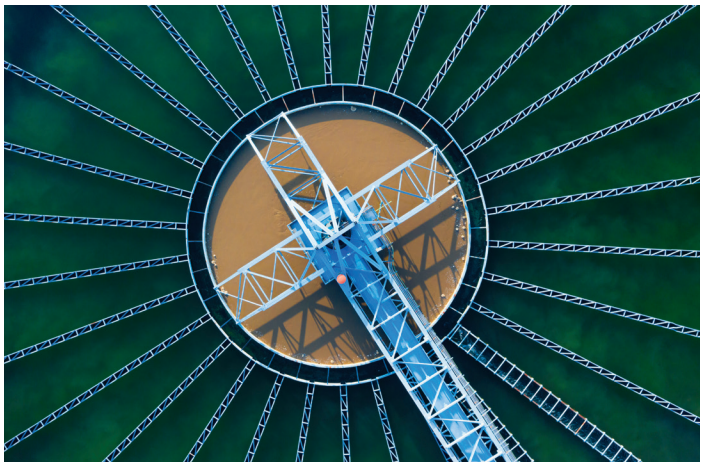


American Foundry Society 2026 Policy Priorities

U.S. Metalcasting Week in Washington, D.C. – June 9-10, 2026





Move America Forward: Invest in a Strong Infrastructure System

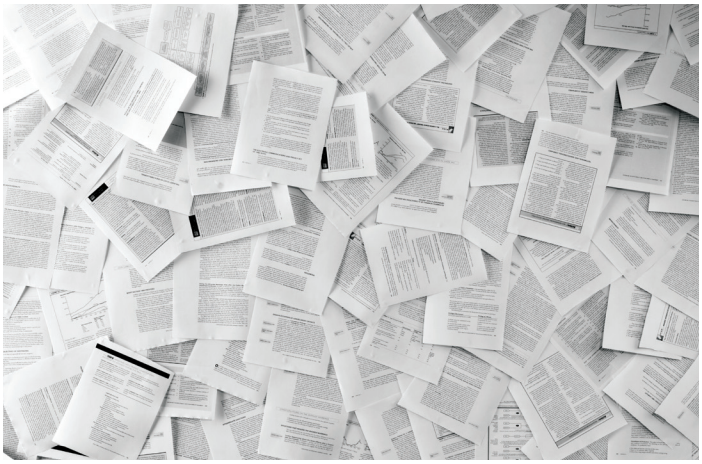
The U.S. metalcasting industry depends on a reliable and modern infrastructure network – spanning roads, bridges, rail, and ports – to move goods and drive our nation's economic growth. Congestion across the nation's roadways and port bottlenecks cost our nation's manufacturers $40 billion annually, according to the National Association of Manufacturers, resulting in delayed shipments, slowed production and increased costs.

AFS urges Congress to enact bipartisan surface transportation reauthorization legislation, the BUILD America 250 Act, H.R. 8870, a five-year bill that authorizes $580 billion in spending and includes major investments in roads, bridges, public transit, rail, and highway safety networks.

Invest in America's Water Infrastructure

The United States' water infrastructure—including its drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems— faces enormous investment gaps. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that U.S. public water systems require over $625 billion over the next 20 years for safe drinking water and wastewater treatment infrastructure, with the majority of funds needed for transmission and distribution networks. Domestic foundries supply the valves, hydrants, pumps, fittings, manhole covers, drainage grates, and other castings needed to repair and modernize these systems.

AFS urges lawmakers to ensure robust funding for America's critical water infrastructure programs for Fiscal Year 2027, preserve and expand the tax exemption for municipal bonds, and pass the Advancing Water Reuse Act (H.R. 2940/S. 4506).



Fix the Permitting Process Now

The ability to build in the United States continues to be stifled by a tangled and inefficient permitting process. Infrastructure projects of all kinds—energy, housing, pipelines, power plants, transmission lines, ports, mining, highways, and bridges—face a gauntlet of federal approvals under a maze of outdated laws and regulations. Projects that should be approved in months are delayed for years, burdened by excessive reviews, interagency gridlock, and legal uncertainty. When it takes longer to permit a project than to build it, the system is clearly broken.

The permitting process for infrastructure projects lasts more than seven years on average — meaning constructing infrastructure projects may not begin until the next decade — at the earliest. These delays serve only to impede critical improvements now and in the future. AFS urges Congress to enact meaningful, transparent, and durable legislation to modernize our nation's permitting processes. Our nation's aging infrastructure, growing restoration needs, and surging energy demands cannot wait until next Congress or beyond. Now is the time to fix the broken permitting process that no longer meets the needs of the country.





Combat Trade Fraud

Trade cheating remains a significant threat to U.S. manufacturing and its workers. This impacts industries including metal castings, which are embedded in nearly every major sector Congress is working to strengthen: defense, infrastructure, energy, transportation, agriculture, mining, heavy equipment, and water systems. When importers evade tariffs, misstate country of origin, or hide behind shell companies, the harm is not abstract: it undercuts U.S. foundries, weakens domestic industrial capacity, and shifts critical production to countries that do not compete under the same rules.

Strengthening our trade enforcement laws will thwart American metalcasters and their workers from having to compete against fraud, circumvention, and subsidized overcapacity.

AFS urges Congress to advance legislation to combat transshipment, circumvention, and evasion of trade remedy orders, while also increasing criminal penalties for trade crimes including the following bills: Fighting Trade Cheats Act, Leveling the Playing Field Act 2.0, and protecting American Industry and Labor from International Trade Crimes Act of 2025.

Energy Accessibility and Reliability

U.S. metalcasters are key suppliers to the energy sector, providing critical castings for power generation, energy transmission and distribution, refining, oil and gas processing, pipelines, nuclear facilities, hydroelectric power plants, and other energy-related infrastructure. As an energy intensive industry, the U.S. metalcasting industry is genuinely concerned about the rising energy demand from data centers which further overburdens the nation's aging power infrastructure.

There is a pressing need for federal lawmakers to use all policy levers available to ensure sufficient, resilient, reliable, and affordable energy for all users. It will require comprehensivepermitting reform, increased domestic production and processing of critical minerals, and building out natural gas infrastructure to shore up reliability. Together, these actions address our energy demands and critical supply chain challenges, particularly as the AI-driven economy continues to grow.

The American Foundry Society (AFS) is the major trade and technical association for the North American metalcasting industry. The industry is composed of over 1,700 facilities manufacturing castings made from iron, steel, aluminum, copper, brass, and other nonferrous alloys that have thousands of applications. America's metalcasters design and produce the highly engineered castings that are used to produce 90% of all durable goods and nearly all manufacturing machinery.

For more information, please visit ***www.afsinc.org*** or contact **Stephanie Salmon**, AFS Washington Office, ***ssalmon@afsinc.org***.



2026 Policy Priorities

Move America Forward: Invest in a Strong Infrastructure System

The U.S. metalcasting industry depends on a reliable and modern infrastructure network – spanning roads, bridges, rail, and ports – to move goods and drive our nation's economic growth. Although the U.S. has made meaningful infrastructure investments, substantial funding is still needed to make up for decades of underinvestment. Construction delays can be devastating, often causing average overruns of 20% to 30% or more.

Congestion across the nation's roadways and port bottlenecks cost our nation's manufacturers $40 billion annually, according to the National Association of Manufacturers, resulting in delayed shipments, slowed production and increased costs.

Trucks moved more than 11 billion tons of freight in 2024 and are expected to haul around 14 billion tons by 2035, requiring a significant federal investment to ensure that highways are properly maintained and designed to accommodate the safe and efficient movement of all vehicles. U.S. metalcasters rely heavily on trucks for daily deliveries of critical supplies, and for the transport of finished castings to our customers. U.S. foundries also produce the castings needed to build, maintain, and repair the infrastructure our economy depends on.

Federal surface transportation reauthorization is the process Congress uses to renew, fund, and update the programs that build and maintain the nation's roads, bridges, transit, and multimodal networks. Reauthorization is one of the most important tools Congress has to shape national transportation policy. Typically passed every five to six years, these bills establish funding levels, define federal priorities, and guide how transportation investments are made.

Funding under the most recent surface transportation authorization expires at the end of this fiscal year on September 30, 2026. As Congress begins work on the next long-term surface transportation reauthorization package, the American Foundry Society (AFS) urges lawmakers to approve legislation that:

- **Provides Robust Funding:** Maintain and guarantee highway, bridge, rail and transit funding at or above current levels, with strong Buy America provisions;
- **Restores the Highway Trust Fund to a True User-Based System:** Develop long-term solutions to restore Highway Trust Fund solvency that maintain a user-based, predictable funding strategy; and,
- **Streamlines the Permitting Process:** Cut red tape associated with infrastructure project approvals, as well as fast-tracking routine maintenance and replacement construction projects.

U.S. Metalcasters Produce Essential Castings Supporting American Infrastructure

Federal transportation spending drives demand for construction materials and manufactured products used to build and maintain our critical infrastructure. U.S. metalcasters manufacture essential castings that underpin American infrastructure. In fact, our nation's foundries supply metal castings that go into every facet of the roads, bridges, rails, and transit that keep America moving, as well as the equipment used to build and maintain these projects.

From bulldozers, graders, loaders, and skid steers to excavation and backhoe equipment, you'll find castings including brackets, housings, flywheels, weights, mounts, covers and plates, sprockets, tubes, arms, links and more. As a trusted supplier to the rail passenger and freight industry, domestic foundries provide castings for engine, rail car axles, suspension, coupling systems and braking systems. Metal castings are essential to bridge construction, primarily used for complex structural nodes, expansion joints, bearing assemblies, and drainage grates since they provide high strength and corrosion resistance.

Ensuring these materials are produced in the United States through our strong bipartisan Buy America laws will strengthen our domestic supply chains and support good-paying American jobs.

Key Infrastructure Legislation

In May, the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure released the BUILD America 250 Act (BA250 Act), H.R. 8870, a five-year surface transportation reauthorization bill that includes major investments in America's roads, bridges, public transit, rail, and highway safety, as well as establishing an autonomous commercial motor vehicle framework. The legislation authorizes $580 billion in spending over fiscal year (FY) 2027 through FY 2031. The introduction of the BUILD America 250 Act is an important first step towards completion of a new surface transportation law this year.

Message to Congress

U.S. metalcasters urge lawmakers to advance timely, bipartisan surface transportation reauthorization legislation and to enact the BUILD America 250 Act - (H.R. 8870) introduced by Congressman Sam Graves (R-MO) and Rick Larsen (D-WA). This bill recognizes the urgent infrastructure challenges facing our nation.

The BUILD America 250 Act contains the following key funding provisions:

- $375 billion in Highway Trust Fund dollars
- $87.5 billion for transit
- $65 billion for rail
- $45 billion for bridges

Other major bill components:

- **Permitting Reform:** Streamlines the permitting process for key projects by expanding categorical exclusions, doubling state National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) assignment periods, and implementing stricter time and page limits on environmental reviews.
- **Buy America:** Maintains strong Buy America rules to ensure that the materials used in projects authorized by the bill—including metal castings—are made in the United States. These safeguards prevent U.S. taxpayer dollars from subsidizing the operations of foreign state-owned and -directed competitors to U.S. metalcasters.
- **Safeguard Transit Operations Against Chinese Influence:** Includes the STOP China Act (H.R. 4361/S. 1711), which would close loopholes in a 2019 law that blocked federal transit funds from being used to buy transit buses, railcars, and other rolling stock vehicles from companies owned or supported by the Chinese government.
- **Highway Trust Fund:** Creates a new fee on electric vehicles and hybrids, ensuring all users of roads and bridges pay into their maintenance and upkeep. This new revenue into the Highway Trust Fund will help shore up balances, while Congress identifies additional revenue to support planned expenditures.

The bipartisan BUILD America 250 Act makes sustained, strategic investments in our nation's infrastructure to strengthen global competitiveness, create jobs, and support American manufacturing. AFS looks forward to working with members of Congress to move this critical surface transportation reauthorization bill forward.

For further information, contact:

American Foundry Society

AFS Washington Office
Stephanie Salmon
202-452-7135 | ssalmon@afsinc.org

AFS Headquarters
1695 N. Penny Lane, Schaumburg, IL 60173
847-824-0181 | www.afsinc.org

ADVOCATE. EDUCATE. INNOVATE.



2026 Policy Priorities

Invest in America's Water Infrastructure

The United States' water infrastructure—including its drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater systems— faces enormous investment gaps. The nationwide need for investment continues to far outpace the amount of funding that is available at all levels of government. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) estimates that U.S. public water systems require over $625 billion over the next 20 years for safe drinking water and wastewater treatment infrastructure, with the majority of funds needed for transmission and distribution networks. Domestic foundries supply the valves, hydrants, pumps, fittings, manhole covers, drainage grates, and other castings needed to repair and modernize these systems.

Infrastructure Challenges

Most water infrastructure in the U.S. was built between the 1930s and 1970s. Much of it is now operating well past its design life. The American Society of Civil Engineers' (ASCE) 2025 Report Card: C-grade for nation's drinking water systems and wastewater received a D+ grade.

Water Main Breaks

- 260,000 water main breaks per year in U.S. which equals 6 billion gallons of water lost per day and more than $3 billion annually in repair costs.

20% Water Loss

- In the U.S., 20% of our treated water is lost before it even reaches the customer –that's 2 trillion gallons of treated water lost each year, costing customers and utilities $6.4 billion.

9 Million Lead Service Lines Need to be Replaced

- EPA estimates that up to 9 million homes are served through legacy lead pipes across the country at an estimated cost of about $80 billion over a 10-year period.

Emerging Contaminants

- Water treatment facilities are upgrading their processes to remove emerging contaminants—such as PFAS, microplastics, and pharmaceuticals—that threaten water quality and require significant infrastructure investment.

[1] *The Value of Water Campaign, https://thevalueofwater.org/econ-research-resources#topical-fact-sheets*

American Foundry Society (AFS) member companies are committed to strengthening America's water infrastructure. U.S. metalcasters produce millions of castings that are essential for the construction, repair, and maintenance of American water and wastewater systems. Foundries across the country supply highly engineered castings that ensure the safe distribution of drinking water and the effective management of municipal wastewater. Every million dollars invested in water infrastructure generates $2.5 million in economic output, and $1.4 million worth of GDP growth. [1]

Key water infrastructure products manufactured by domestic metalcasters include:

- **Valves and Hydrants:** Critical components used to control water flow, maintain pressure, and provide reliable fire suppression for communities.
- **Pumps and Impellers:** Heavy-duty, corrosion-resistant cast parts required to move billions of gallons of water and sewage daily.
- **Pipe Fittings and Couplings:** Connectors and joint components that ensure secure, leak-proof integration of pipeline networks.
- **Access and Drainage Castings:** Manhole covers, catch basins, and drainage grates.

The nation's water infrastructure is simply inadequate to meet the growing public and private demands for freshwater. An increasingly important way to supplement freshwater supplies is water reuse – the process of intentionally capturing wastewater, stormwater, saltwater or graywater and cleaning it as needed for a designated beneficial freshwater purpose such as industrial processes or groundwater replenishment.

Industrial water use in the U.S. is second only to that of agriculture, and current water reuse offsets only a fraction of industrial water usage. U.S. metalcasters use significant amounts of water in their manufacturing process. Water is essential for several core operational, cooling, and environmental control processes.

Expanding investment in water reuse will reduce reliance on freshwater supplies, ensure that residents have safe drinking water supplies and industries have access to clean water necessary to create new jobs, as well as promote economic growth.

Message to Congress

Congress is preparing to mark up bills to reauthorize water infrastructure programs before they expire on September 30, 2026, AFS urges lawmakers to:

Ensure Robust Funding for America's Critical Water Infrastructure Programs for Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27)

Reauthorize and maintain at or above current funding levels through FY2031 for:

- Core water infrastructure finance programs like the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs) and Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)
- Grant programs that support small and disadvantaged communities
- Assist with stormwater management
- Lead service line replacements
- Reduction of lead in drinking water and the removal of emerging contaminants programs
- Maintain Buy America preferences for iron, steel, and manufactured products, as well as improving and tightening waiver processes.

These foundational federal programs are essential to ensuring safe, reliable and affordable drinking water, wastewater and stormwater infrastructure across the country. To ensure all communities— urban and rural— can affordably maintain and upgrade their critical water infrastructure, we call on Congress to commit to heightened and sustained federal support.

Support Tax Incentives to Ensure Long-Term Water Supplies and Economic Development

AFS urges lawmakers to:

Preserve and expand the tax exemption for municipal bonds

- These bonds are a critical tool for financing municipal water infrastructure. Eliminating this exemption would significantly increase local borrowing costs and shift the financial burden directly onto taxpayers through higher local taxes or reduced services.

Support Passage of the Advancing Water Reuse Act (H.R. 2940/S. 4506)

- This bipartisan legislation would provide a federal tax incentive for manufacturers and other industrial entities to scale up their use of recycled water in lieu of other freshwater supplies.

Key provisions include:

- Provides a 30 percent tax credit for water reuse projects
- Covers projects that: install, replace, or modify an onsite water recycling system within an industrial, manufacturing, data center, or food processing facility
- Replaces the use of freshwater, such as groundwater, with recycled water from a municipal water provider for the production of goods or provision of services

Advancing Water Reuse Act (H.R. 2940) - Urge your House lawmakers to cosponsor and support passage. Thank the following 26 House lawmakers for cosponsoring:

Rep. Mike Carey (R-OH-15)	**Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL-8)**	**Rep. Linda Sánchez (D-CA-38)**
Rep. Sean Casten (D-IL-6)	**Rep. Darrin LaHood* (R-IL-16)**	**Rep. Brad Schneider (D-IL-10)**
Rep. Kathy Castor (D-FL-14)	**Rep. Susie Lee (D-NV-3)**	**Rep. Hillary Scholten (D-MI-3)**
Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN-9)	**Rep. Mike Levin (D-CA-49)**	**Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY-24)**
Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA-21)	**Rep. Ryan Mackenzie (R-PA-7)**	**Rep. Derek Tran (D-CA-45)**
Rep. Joe Courtney (D-CT-2)	**Rep. Nicole Malliotakis [R-NY-11]**	**Rep. Gabe Vasquez (D-NM-2)**
Rep. Sharice Davids (D-KS-3)	**Rep. Sarah McBride (D-DE-At Large)**	**Rep. Eugene Vindman (D-VA-7)**
Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-1]	**Rep. Dave Min (D-CA-47)**	**Rep. Rob Wittman (R-VA-1)**
Rep. Pat Harrigan (R-NC-10)	**Rep. Kelly Morrison (D-MN-3)**	

To cosponsor the Advancing Water Reuse Act, contact ***samuel.jockisch@mail.house.gov***, office of **Rep. Darin LaHood (R-IL-16)**, or ***rachel.chasalow@mail.house.gov***, office of **Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-CA-38)**.

Advancing Water Reuse Act (S. 4506) - Thanks to the bill sponsors **Senators Katie Britt (R-AL)** and **Ben Ray Luján (D-NM)**. Urge your Senators to cosponsor and support passage.

To cosponsor the Advancing Water Reuse Act, contact ***johnhenry_woods@britt.senate.gov***, office of **Senator Katie Britt (R-AL)**, or ***jonathan_black@lujan.senate.gov***, Office of **Senator Ben Ray Luján**.

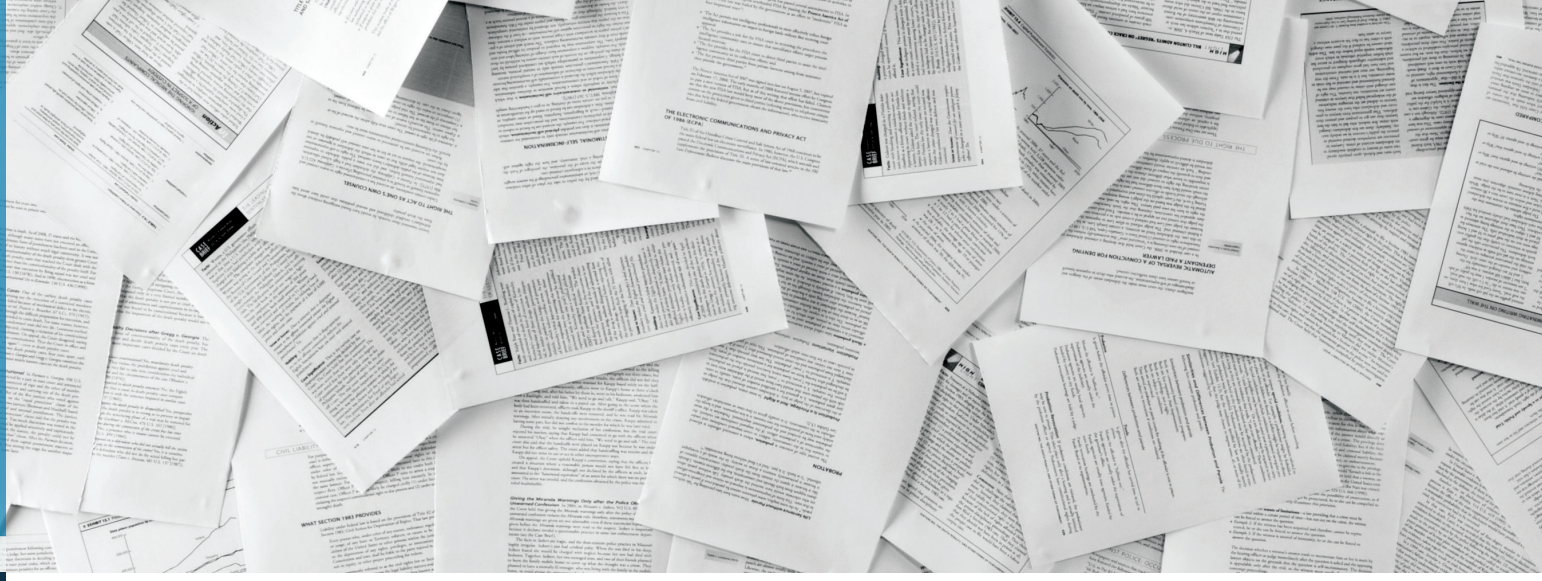
For further information, contact:

American Foundry Society

AFS Washington Office
Stephanie Salmon
202-452-7135 | ssalmon@afsinc.org

AFS Headquarters
1695 N. Penny Lane, Schaumburg, IL 60173
847-824-0181 | www.afsinc.org

ADVOCATE. EDUCATE. INNOVATE.



2026 Policy Priorities

Fix the Permitting Process Now

The ability to build in the United States continues to be stifled by a tangled and inefficient permitting process. Infrastructure projects of all kinds—energy, housing, pipelines, power plants, transmission lines, ports, mining, highways, and bridges—face a gauntlet of federal approvals under a maze of outdated laws and regulations. Projects that should be approved in months are delayed for years, burdened by excessive reviews, interagency gridlock, and legal uncertainty. When it takes longer to permit a project than to build it, the system is clearly broken.

The permitting process for infrastructure projects lasts **more than seven years on average** — meaning constructing infrastructure projects may not begin until the next decade — at the earliest. These delays serve only to impede critical improvements now and in the future.



Importance of Permitting Reform to U.S. Metalcasters

American metalcasters want to produce more metal castings here at home which will create stronger supply chains, more jobs, and greater economic resilience for our industry. But our federal permitting system treats routine industrial upgrades like novel developments, subjects renewals to the same scrutiny as first-time applications, and leaves firms unable to forecast if or when a decision will be made.

Metalcasters need permitting reform to reduce the costly delays and regulatory uncertainty that hinder facility expansion and overall infrastructure development that will:

- **Ensure Energy Reliability:** Energy-intensive industries, such as the metalcasting industry, require vast amounts of affordable, reliable electricity. Permitting reform is vital for building a modern grid, transmission lines, and new power generation required to meet rising industrial and AI-driven energy demands.
- **Eliminate Costly Delays:** Lengthy bureaucratic reviews and open-ended litigation derail projects, sometimes stretching approvals out for a decade or more.
- **Reduce Routine Burdens:** Current systems often subject basic, routine industrial upgrades to the same exhaustive, full first-time regulatory scrutiny. Permitting reform seeks to eliminate this redundancy so manufacturers can upgrade their shops safely and efficiently.

Foundries produce critical castings for a wide variety of industry sectors related to infrastructure, including construction and mining equipment, energy transmission, oil and gas, rail, transit, roads, bridges, ports, and waterworks.

As an energy-intensive industry, metalcasters remain concerned about the permitting obstacles utilities face in modernizing and upgrading the power grid. We are particularly troubled about the strain data centers place on the grid. As digital transformation accelerates, data centers are becoming the backbone of the digital economy, supporting everything from AI workloads to real-time analytics and autonomous vehicles, while consuming a growing share of the nation's electricity. For foundries, that added demand can increase costs, strain reliability, and limit manufacturers' ability to expand. Beyond their heavy electricity use, hyperscale data centers require large volumes of water for cooling to keep servers from overheating.

According to the Electric Power Research Institute's February 2026 report, data centers could consume 9 to 17 percent of U.S. electricity generation by 2030 — more than double current use. The following eight states — Arizona, Indiana, Iowa, Nebraska, Nevada, Oregon, Virginia, and Wyoming — are projected to see data centers exceed 20 percent of their respective electricity usage by 2030.

Message to Congress

U.S. metalcasters urge Congress to enact meaningful, transparent, and durable legislation to modernize our nation's permitting processes. Our nation's aging infrastructure, growing restoration needs, and surging energy demands cannot wait until next Congress or beyond. Now is the time to fix the broken permitting process that no longer meets the needs of the country.

In December, the U.S. House of Representatives 2025 passed the Standardizing Permitting and Expediting Economic Development (SPEED) Act, the Promoting Efficient Review for Modern Infrastructure Today (PERMIT) Act, and several other permitting-related bills in 2026 that were strongly endorsed by AFS and aimed at streamlining permitting processes, reducing delays, and providing greater certainty for project approvals. Thank you to the 221 House members who voted for the SPEED Act.

While there are differing perspectives on how Congress should address the permitting challenge, there is consensus that a modernized permitting process requires:

- **Predictability:** Project developers and financiers must have an appropriate level of certainty regarding the scope and timeline for project reviews, including any related judicial review.
- **Efficiency:** Interagency coordination must be improved to optimize public and private resources while driving better environmental and community outcomes.
- **Transparency & Stakeholder Input:** Project sponsors and the public must have visibility into the project permitting milestones and schedule through an easily accessible public means. All relevant stakeholders must be adequately informed and able to provide input within a reasonable and consistent timeframe.
- **Modernize the Clean Air Act:** Permitting reform should include workable National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter (PM2.5) and realistic review cycles for air rules.

Modernizing America's broken permitting system will unleash investment, create jobs, and ensure energy-intensive industries and consumers have access to affordable, reliable energy.

For further information, contact:

American Foundry Society

AFS Washington Office
Stephanie Salmon
202-452-7135 | ssalmon@afsinc.org

AFS Headquarters
1695 N. Penny Lane, Schaumburg, IL 60173
847-824-0181 | www.afsinc.org

ADVOCATE. EDUCATE. INNOVATE.



2026 Policy Priorities

Combat Trade Fraud

Trade cheating remains a significant threat to U.S. manufacturing and its workers. This impacts industries including metal castings, which are embedded in nearly every major sector Congress is working to strengthen: defense, infrastructure, energy, transportation, agriculture, mining, heavy equipment, and water systems. When importers evade tariffs, misstate country of origin, or hide behind shell companies, the harm is not abstract: it undercuts U.S. foundries, weakens domestic industrial capacity, and shifts critical production to countries that do not compete under the same rules. AFS urges Congress to strengthen trade enforcement so American metalcasters and their workers are not forced to compete against fraud, circumvention, and subsidized overcapacity.

Key Predatory Trade Practices

Tariff Dodging

The U.S. government charges tariffs based on the item, its declared dollar value, its country of origin, and where the good was last manufactured. Numerous schemes exist that importers utilize to try to evade U.S. tariffs such as:

- Underreporting a casting or product's value reduces the tariff owed because tariffs are assessed as a percentage of the import price.
- Misclassifying a metal casting or product to qualify for a lower tariff.
- Transshipping by sending Chinese or other low-cost-country castings through a third country before they enter the U.S. to secure a lower tariff rate than the country of origin.

China continues to engage in the use of widespread subsidies and unfair non-market practices that harm American metalcasters. China's enormous state support for manufacturing fosters overcapacity that brings prices down so low, making it impossible for American metalcasters to compete in most sectors.

Furthermore, the United States' higher tariffs on Chinese imports have incentivized China to find alternate entries to the American market mainly via Mexico and some through Canada. In fact, China's exports to Mexico increased from $90.23 billion in 2024 to roughly $133.24 billion in 2025 — an increase of nearly 48%, according to the United Nations Commodity Trade Statistics Database. The current review of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) presents an important opportunity for the three countries to address concerns about Chinese circumvention, but additional action needs to be taken, including utilizing Section 301.

In addition, bad actors have become increasingly adept at forming multiple shell companies with no assets to serve as Importers of Record, often with the same principals and affiliates. This tactic is used to obscure supply chain ties, dodge anti-dumping duties, and evade financial liability. This sets up a continuing game of "whack-a-mole" that U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Department of Justice, with their limited resources, are inadequately equipped to fight back.

Excess Capacity

The American metalcasting industry has long been a target of structural excess capacity and overproduction in global manufacturing. Metal castings are essential to both our economic and national security, and foreign producers routinely dump excess production into our market to distort competition and weaken our domestic industries. Countries such as China and India and other low-cost countries continue to circumvent trade rules and target critical industries.

As documented by the U.S. Trade Representative and the Department of Commerce, this overcapacity has been driven in large part by subsidies and other trade-distorting measures such as tax incentives, the provision of inputs for less than adequate remuneration, state-owned enterprises, currency manipulation, export restraints, and import restrictions. Collectively, these policies have deepened the global overcapacity crisis, forcing large volumes of unfairly traded metal castings below market cost into the U.S. market and creating a grossly uneven playing field that advantages foreign producers at the direct expense of American metalcasters and their workers.

These practices place significant pressure on the U.S. metalcasting industry, despite our continued investments in advanced technologies and high-quality domestic production. The result is a steady bleeding out of U.S. foundry's production capabilities, delayed capital investments, and ultimately leading to foundry closures and job loss. These practices represent an existential threat to the U.S. metalcasting base and our national defense.

Utilizing Section 301 is an appropriate and necessary tool for the Administration to utilize to confront the scourge of excess capacity, which threatens American jobs, undermines fair competition, and erodes our manufacturing base. We cannot continue to allow excess capacity to undermine the American metalcasting industry and weaken our nation. AFS supports the Administration's efforts to ensure fair trade and a level playing field for American workers.

Message to Congress

As trade fraud continues to harm U.S. manufacturing, the U.S. metalcasting industry urges Congress to advance legislation to combat transshipment, circumvention, and evasion of trade remedy orders, while also increasing criminal penalties for trade crimes. The American Foundry Society (AFS) urges lawmakers to strengthen U.S. trade laws by cosponsoring the bipartisan bills below.

AFS urges Members of Congress to Increase Enforcement to Crack Down on Trade Cheaters by Supporting:

Fighting Trade Cheats Act (H.R. 1284/S. 3808)

A bill to strengthen U.S. trade law enforcement and give American manufacturers the opportunity to act against bad actors that engage in customs fraud, such as circumventing subsidy duties. Specifically, the bill would provide for:

- **Increased Penalties:** Triples the maximum civil penalties for fraudulent violations to three times the domestic value of the merchandise and drastically increases penalties for gross negligence.
- **Importation Bans:** Establishes mandatory bans on importing products into the U.S. for past violators—up to five years for fraudulent violations and up to two years for gross negligence – and extends those bans to affiliated individuals and shell companies.
- **Private Enforcement Actions:** Allows domestic manufacturers, wholesalers, and labor unions to file civil lawsuits in federal district court against foreign producers that harm U.S. industries by violating customs laws.

Fighting Trade Cheats Act of 2025 (H.R. 1284) - Urge your House lawmakers to co-sponsor and support passage. Thank the following 39 House lawmakers for co-sponsoring:

Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-AL-4)	Rep. Mark Harris (R-NC-8)	Rep. Greg Murphy (R-NC-3)
Rep. Mark Alford (R-MO-4)	Rep. Ashley Hinson (R-IA-2)	Rep. Gary Palmer (R-AL-6)
Rep. Brian Babin (R-TX-36)	Rep. Richard Hudson (R-NC-9)	Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA-19)
Rep. Troy Balderson (R-OH-12)	Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA-17)	Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL-3)
Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-GA-2)	Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL-8)	Rep. Deborah Ross (D-NC-2)
Rep. Mike Bost (R-IL-12) *	Rep. Nick Langworthy (R-NY-23)	Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC-7)
Rep. Nikki Budzinski (D-IL-13)	Rep. Addison McDowell (R-NC-6)	Rep. Michael Rulli (R-OH-6)
Rep. Mike Carey (R-OH-15)	Rep. Carol Miller (R-WV-1)	Rep. Terri Sewell (D-AL-7) *
Rep. Rose DeLauro (D-CT-3)	Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA-1)	Rep. Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ-11)
Rep. Chris Deluzio (D-PA-17)	Rep. John Moolenaar (R-MI-2)	Rep. Dale Strong (R-AL-5)
Rep. Chuck Edwards (R-NC-11)	Rep. Tim Moore (R-NC-14)	Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY-24)
Rep. Lance Gooden (R-TX-5)	Rep. Nathaniel Moran (R-TX-1)	Rep. Beth Van Duyne (R-TX-24)
Rep. Pat Harrigan (R-NC-10)	Rep. Frank Mrvan (D-IN-1)	Rep. Randy Weber (R-TX-14)

***Sponsors**

To cosponsor the Fighting Trade Cheats Act of 2025 (H.R. 1284), contact: **Lacey Bowersox**, *lacey.bowersox@mail.house.gov*, office of **Rep. Mike Bost** (**R-IL**), or Rob Nuttall, *robert.nuttall@mail.house.gov*, office of **Rep. Terri Sewell** (**D-AL**).

Fighting Trade Cheats Act of 2026 (S. 3808) - Urge your Senators to co-sponsor and support passage. Thank the following 4 Senators for co-sponsoring:

Sen. Katie Britt (R-Al) *	Sen. John Fetterman (D-PA)	Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) *
	Sen. Thom Tillis (R-NC)	

***Sponsors**

To cosponsor the Fighting Trade Cheats Act of 2026 (S. 3808), contact: **John Degaris**, *john_degaris@britt.senate.gov*, office of **Senator Katie Britt** (**R-AL**) or **Ben Thomas**, *ben_thomas@baldwin.senate.gov*, office of **Senator Tammy Baldwin** (**D-WI**).

Leveling the Playing Field Act 2.0 (H.R. 1548 / S. 691)

A bipartisan bill designed to strengthen U.S. antidumping and countervailing duty (AD/CVD) laws and provides the Department of Commerce and the International Trade Commission (ITC) with expanded tools to penalize foreign subsidies, combat duty evasion, and deter unfair trade practices. Specifically, it authorizes:

- **Expedited Circumvention Inquiries:** Sets statutory deadlines and clarifies procedures for the Commerce Department to conduct inquiries into importers and companies that attempt to evade AD/CVD orders.
- **Successive Investigations:** Establishes a clear legal framework for successive investigations, which makes it easier for domestic industries to file new trade cases when foreign violators attempt to evade tariffs by shifting production to other countries (country hopping).
- **Transnational Subsidies:** Grants the Department of Commerce the authority to apply countervailing duties to subsidies provided by a foreign government to a company operating in a different country.
- **Currency Undervaluation:** Codifies the Commerce Department's ability to investigate foreign currency undervaluation as an actionable, countervailable subsidy.

Leveling the Playing Field Act 2.0 (H.R. 1548) - Urge your House lawmakers to co-sponsor and support passage. Thank the following 98 House lawmakers for co-sponsoring:

Rep. Robert Aderholt (R-AL-4)	Rep. Ashley Hinson (R-IA-2)	Rep. Harold Rogers (R-KY-5)
Rep. Mark Alford (R-MO-4)	Rep. Erin Houchin (R-IN-9)	Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL-3)
Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-TX-19)	Rep. Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA-6)	Rep. Deborah Ross (R-NC-2)
Rep. Brian Babin (R-TX-36)	Rep. Val Hoyle (D-OR-4)	Rep. David Rouzer (R-NC-7)
Rep. Troy Balderson (R-OH-12)	Rep. Henry Johnson (D-GA-4)	Rep. Mike Rulli (R-OH-6)
Rep. Andy Barr (R-KY-6)	Rep. David Joyce (R-OH-14)	Rep. John Rutherford (R-FL-5)
Rep. Jack Bergman (R-MI-1)	Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D-OH-9)	Rep. Hillary Scholten (D-MI-3)
Rep. Mike Bost (R-IL-12)	Rep. Thomas Kean (R-NJ-7)	Rep. Pete Sessions (R-TX-17)
Rep. Robert Bresnahan (R-PA-8)	Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA-16)	Rep. Terri Sewell (D-AL-7)
Rep. Shontel Brown (D-OH-11)	Rep. Robin Kelly (D-IL-2)	Rep. Mikie Sherrill (D-NJ-11)
Rep. Nikki Budzinski (D-IL-13)	Rep. Ro Khanna (D-CA-17)	Rep. Jefferson Shreve (R-IN-6)
Rep. Mike Carey (R-OH-15)	Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL-8)	Rep. Pete Stauber (R-MN-8)
Rep. André Carson (D-IN-7)	Rep. Greg Landsman (D-OH-1)	Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY-21)
Rep. Troy Carter (D-LA-2)	Rep. Nick Langworthy (R-NY-23)	Rep. Gregory Steube (R-FL-17)
Rep. Ed Case (D-HI-1)	Rep. John Larson (D-CT-1)	Rep. Haley Stevens (D-MI-11)
Rep. Juan Ciscomani (R-AZ-6)	Rep. Summer Lee (D-PA-12)	Rep. Dale Strong (R-AL-5)
Rep. Angie Craig (D-MN-2)	Rep. Stephen Lynch (D-MA-8)	Rep. Marlin Stutzman (R-IN-3)
Rep. Rick Crawford (R-AR-1)	Rep. John Mannion (D-NY-22)	Rep. Emily Sykes (D-OH-13)
Rep. Don Davis (D-NC-1)	Rep. Richard McCormick (R-GA-7)	Rep. David Taylor (R-OH-2)
Rep. Monica De La Cruz (R-TX-15)	Rep. Kristen McDonald Rivet (D-MI-8)	Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-NY-24)
Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT-3)	Rep. Morgan McGarvey (D-KY-3)	Rep. Shri Thanedar (D-MI-13)
Rep. Chris Deluzio (D-PA-17)	Rep. Dan Meuser (R-PA-9)	Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-PA-15)
Rep. Debbie Dingell (R-MI-6)	Rep. Carol Miller (R-WV-1)	Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV-1)
Rep. Neal Dunn (R-FL-2)	Rep. John Moolenaar (R-MI-2)	Rep. Mike Turner (R-OH-10)
Rep. Chuck Edwards (R-NC-11)	Rep. Barry Moore (R-AL-1)	Rep. Beth Van Duyne (R-TX-24) *
Rep. Mike Ezell (R-MS-4)	Rep. Riley Moore (R-WV-2)	Rep. Marc Veasey (D-TX-33)
Rep. Shomari Figures (D-AL-2)	Rep. Tim Moore (R-NC-14)	Rep. Eugene Vindman (D-VA-7)
Rep. Brad Finstad (R-MN-1)	Rep. Nathanial Moran (R-TX-1)	Rep. Tim Walberg (R-MI-5)
Rep. Valerie Foushee (D-NC-4)	Rep. Frank Mrvan (D-IN-1)	Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA-43)
Rep. Jared Golden (D-ME-2)	Rep. Troy Nehls (R-TX-22)	Rep. Randy Weber (R-TX-14)
Rep. Michael Guest (R-MS-3)	Rep. Donald Norcross (D-NJ-1)	Rep. Joe Wilson (R-SC-2)
Rep. Pat Harrigan (R-NC-10)	Rep. Zachary Nunn (R-IA-3)	
Rep. Clay Higgins (R-LA-3)	Rep. Josh Riley (D-NY-19)	

Sponsors

To cosponsor the Leveling the Playing Field Act 2.0 (H.R. 1548) contact: **Ian McPhearson**, *ian.mcphearson@mail.house.gov*, Office of Rep. **Van Duyne** (R-TX), or **Rob Nuttall**, *robert.nuttall@mail.house.gov*, Office of **Rep. Sewell** (D-AL).

Leveling the Playing Field Act 2.0 (S. 691) - Urge your Senators to co-sponsor and support passage. Thank the following 23 Senators for co-sponsoring:

Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)	Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)	Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)
Sen. Jim Banks (R-IN)	Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC)	Sen. Elissa Slotkin (D-MI)
Sen. Marsha Blackburn (R-TN)	Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS)	Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN) *
Sen. Katie Britt (R-AL)	Sen. James Justice (R-WV)	Sen. Tommy Tuberville (R-AL)
Sen. Shelley Capito (R-WV)	Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)	Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA
Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR)	Sen. David McCormick (R-PA)	Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS)
Sen. John Fetterman (D-PA)	Sen. Bernie Moreno (R-OH)	Sen. Todd Young (R-IN) *
Sen. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ)	Sen. Eric Schmitt (R-MO)	

Sponsors

To cosponsor the Leveling the Playing Field Act 2.0 (S. 691) contact: **Burke Miller**, *burke_miller@young.senate.gov*, office of **Senator Todd Young (R-IN)**, or **Omair Taher**, *omair_taher@smith.senate.gov*, Office of **Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN)**.

Protecting American Industry and Labor from International Trade Crimes Act of 2025 (H.R. 1869)

Bipartisan legislation aims to strengthen enforcement by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) against trade-related crimes to protect American manufacturers and workers. It would require the Justice Department to:

- Establish a task force within the DOJ's Criminal Division to investigate and prosecute trade-related crimes.
- Provide training and technical assistance to other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, expanding investigations and prosecutions, and allowing for parallel criminal and civil enforcement actions to enhance nationwide responses to trade-related offenses.
- Submit an annual report to Congress assessing the DOJ's efforts, statistics on trade-related crimes, and fund utilization.
- Provide authorization of $20 million in funding for fiscal year 2027 to support the task force.

Protecting American Industry and Labor from International Trade Crimes Act (H.R. 1869) - Urge your House lawmakers to co-sponsor and support passage. Thank the following 45 House lawmakers for co-sponsoring:

Rep. Sanford Bishop (D-GA-2)	Rep. Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ-5)	Rep. Troy Nehls (R-TX-22)
Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR-1)	Rep. Clay Higgins (R-LA-3)	Rep. Dan Newhouse (R-WA-4)
Rep. Nikki Budzinski (D-IL-13)	Rep. Ashley Hinson (R-IA-2) *	Rep. Donald Norcross (D-NJ-1)
Rep. Andre Carson (D-IN-7)	Rep. Glenn Ivey (D-MD-4)	Rep. Zach Nunn (R-IA-3)
Rep. Kathy Castor (D-FL-14)	Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA-16)	Rep. Josh Riley (D-NY-19)
Rep. Juan Ciscomani (R-AZ-6)	Rep. Ro Khanna (R-CA-17)	Rep. Deborah Ross (D-NC-2)
Rep. Ben Cline (R-VA-6)	Rep. Kevin Kiley (R-CA-3)	Rep. Mike Rulli (R-OH-6)
Rep. Herb Conaway (R-NJ-3)	Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL-8)	Rep. Greg Stanton (D-AZ-4)
Rep. Luis Correa (D-CA-46)	Rep. Darin LaHood (R-IL-16)	Rep. Elise Stefanik (R-NY-21)
Rep. Don Davis (D-NC-1)	Rep. Susie Lee (D-NV-3)	Rep. Haley Stevens (D-MI-11)
Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT-3)	Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA-36)	Rep. William Timmons (R-SC-4)
Rep. Chris Deluzio (D-PA-17)	Rep. John Moolenaar (R-MI-2)	Rep. Jill Tokuda (D-HI-2)
Rep. Debbie Dingell (D-MI-6)	Rep. Nathaniel Moran (R-TX-1)	Rep. Ritchie Torres (D-NY-15)
Rep. Brad Finstad (R-MN-1)	Rep. Seth Moulton (D-MA-6)	Rep. Eugene Vindman (D-VA-7)
Rep. Carlos Ginenez (R-FL-28)	Rep. Frank Mrvan (D-IN-1)	Rep. Rob Wittman (R-VA-1)

Sponsors

To cosponsor, the Protecting American Industry and Labor from International Trade Crimes Act (H.R. 1869) contact: **Nick Bowser**, *nick.bowser@mail.house.gov*, office of **Rep. Ashley Hinson (R-IA)** and **Devon Harris**, *devon.harris@mail.house.gov*, office of **Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL)**. No Senate companion.

For further information, contact:

American Foundry Society

AFS Washington Office
Stephanie Salmon
202-452-7135 | ssalmon@afsinc.org

AFS Headquarters
1695 N. Penny Lane, Schaumburg, IL 60173
847-824-0181 | www.afsinc.org









2026 Policy Priorities

Unfairly Traded Imports Harm American Iron Foundries and Our Economy

A thriving U.S. metalcasting industry is critical to our country's national defense, infrastructure, energy, and economic security. Unfairly traded imports are eroding domestic iron foundry capacity, contributing to plant closures, job losses, and underutilized U.S. capacity. The industry has been the target of dumping and unfair trade practices from low-cost countries for decades.

Unfortunately, American iron foundries have been under increasing attacks by wave after wave of unfairly traded imports principally from China and India. The root cause of these attacks is the very issues that the United States Trade Representative (USTR) is currently examining in its Section 301 investigation: policies and practices such as illegal subsidies and tariff and non-tariff barriers that create and sustain massive overcapacity.

Iron foundries produce key castings that are critical to automotive, agriculture, construction, energy, mining, transportation, rail, machinery, and infrastructure including water and wastewater systems, roads, bridges, airports, and other public utilities. They also support all areas of national defense from fighters to ships, as well as combat vehicles and weapon systems, making domestic foundries an important part of the industrial base needed for defense readiness and emergency mobilization. Once domestic casting capacity closes, it is difficult, costly, and slow to recreate.

Chinese and Indian Excess Capacity Harms the U.S. Iron Foundries and Economy

Global iron casting production is highly concentrated in few countries, with China and India playing dominant roles in global output and export-oriented manufacturing.

- China is the world's largest producer of castings, with total annual output exceeding 50 million tons, according to the World Foundry Organization.
- India maintains a large and expanding iron casting industry, supported by continued capacity additions and increasingly focused toward supplying foreign markets.

Imports from China and India are consistently priced below the U.S. industry's cost of production and are increasingly seizing market share from domestic iron foundries. The result is a steady bleeding out of U.S. iron foundry production capabilities. Moreover, these countries have continued to provide subsidies and other unfair incentives that have led to the construction of more and more foundries to the point where their own domestic capacity far exceeds domestic demand.

As China seeks to export its excess capacity, other countries with iron foundries are also turning to the U.S. market, sending growing volumes of unfairly traded and extremely low-priced products into the United States. These trade practices have contributed to massive overcapacity and represent an existential threat to the U.S. manufacturing base and our national defense.

These trade practices clearly:

1. Burden and restrict U.S. commerce;
2. Displace U.S. producers in their home market;
3. Eliminate U.S. export opportunities; and
4. Increase the U.S. trade deficit in critical industrial goods.

This is not a cyclical downturn. It is the result of persistent and structural unfair trade practices. The impact of excessive capacity on domestic iron foundries has been plant closures, layoffs, and deferred capital investments.

- Over the period from 2013 to 2023, 120 iron foundries - more than one third of the industry - shuttered their doors.
- From 2024 through May 22, 2026, at least 13 additional iron foundries across eleven states have ceased operations, eliminating over 1,200 direct jobs and countless more indirect ones.

Imports of iron castings have entered the United States at landed prices—including shipping costs—that are **less than half of the production cost** of comparable castings manufactured by U.S. iron foundries. Such pricing is not the result of ordinary market competition, but instead reflects the unfair advantages described above.

The loss of casting work to overseas foundries has cascading effects across the entire American metalcasting industry. The metalcasting process requires significant capital investment. Volume is essential. When imported castings displace domestic supply, it exerts downward pricing pressure across all segments of our industry. The result is a weakening of the domestic iron foundries' economic viability, regardless of whether the castings are for cars, trucks, agriculture, construction, machinery, or national defense.

U.S. Iron Foundries Requested Action Under Section 301

The American Foundry Society (AFS) requests the USTR take decisive action under its Section 301 authority to stop these unfair trade practices which are harming U.S. iron foundries including the following actions:

- Find that India and China pursue acts, policies, and practices including illegal subsidies, tariff and non-tariff barriers, and other unfair practices that have **created massive overcapacity** in those countries' iron foundries.
- **Impose targeted tariffs and other trade measures, including quotas or import restrictions;**
- Coordinate closely with Customs and Border Protection to ensure robust, **evidence based enforcement**; and
- **Address third country circumvention** through effective enforcement and strong and enforceable provisions in U.S. trade agreements that mandate our trading partners prevent circumvention.
- AFS urges lawmakers to support decisive USTR action under Section 301, including targeted remedies, robust customs enforcement, and measures to prevent third-country circumvention.

Conclusion

Foreign overcapacity, subsidized production, and predatory pricing have tilted the playing field to the point where quality, reliability, and proximity no longer outweigh artificially suppressed prices.

Properly structured and enforced, Section 301 tariffs and remedies can help restore fair competition, strengthen supply chain resilience, and enable iron foundries to reinvest, innovate, and grow. U.S. iron foundries have meaningful underutilized capacity that can be activated quickly under fair market conditions.

Such action is not only fully warranted under U.S. trade law—it is also necessary to restore fair competition, protect American workers, and allow critical iron foundries in the United States to survive and thrive again.

For further information, contact:

American Foundry Society

AFS Washington Office
Stephanie Salmon
202-452-7135 | ssalmon@afsinc.org

AFS Headquarters
1695 N. Penny Lane, Schaumburg, IL 60173
847-824-0181 | www.afsinc.org

ADVOCATE. EDUCATE. INNOVATE.