

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:  
APPROPRIATIONS  
COMMERCE  
HEALTH, EDUCATION,  
LABOR, AND PENSIONS

January 22, 2021

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write to you today to urge you to use your executive authority to boost the economy by directing all federal agencies to maximize the amount of American-made materials and products they purchase, fund, and finance. I know that expanding and enhancing Buy America rules is a key part of your Build Back Better agenda and I look forward to working with you to revitalize American manufacturing and create American jobs using the power of the federal government as a buyer and investor in our industrial capabilities. Additionally, I hope you will lend your support to legislative initiatives to expand and enhance domestic content requirements, particularly in advance of a historic investment in our nation's infrastructure.

In the immediate term, I urge you to use your authority to narrow the application of waivers granted for domestic content preferences throughout the federal government. This includes Buy America waivers at the Department of Transportation for iron, steel, and manufactured goods as well as broader waivers granted to the Buy American Act. The effectiveness of the Buy American Act has been significantly curtailed by the Trade Agreements Act, which allows almost 60 countries to qualify for treatment as American firms for the purposes of selling products and services to government agencies.

In addition to restricting the waivers granted, I urge you to use your authorities to increase transparency of waivers, ideally with a public-facing website. With more visibility into what the government needs waivers to purchase from abroad, American firms will be able to adjust to meet the government demand. A new office specifically tasked with increasing American-made purchasing would be able to oversee the waiver process and establish a partnership with the private sector to help identify needs and opportunities that American companies could fill instead of foreign contractors.

In addition to these executive actions, I stand ready to work with you on several legislative proposals. I have authored legislation to expand Buy America requirements to all federal infrastructure programs and apply the rules to additional construction materials. Similarly, I have

also authored legislation to require all federal agencies to use domestically manufactured critical components for all shipbuilding programs. These protections are necessary to maintain a fragile domestic supplier base, a concern highlighted by multiple Department of Defense industrial base studies. Finally, any infrastructure proposal must ensure that all funding supports products made in America produced by American companies

I look forward to partnering with you on this key element of the Build Back Better agenda and stand ready to assist in any way I can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tammy Baldwin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senator