

Check Against Delivery

Opening Remarks from the Saskatchewan Industrial and Mining Suppliers Association

Eric Anderson, Executive Director

Mr. Chair and members of the committee, thank you for the invitation to appear today, to discuss the impacts of U.S. tariffs on Canada's metallurgical and advanced manufacturing sectors.

My name is Eric Anderson, and I am the Executive Director of the Saskatchewan Industrial and Mining Suppliers Association, or SIMSA.

We represent more than 380 Saskatchewan companies, that support the mining, energy, and industrial sectors. Together, our members generate over \$18 billion in annual sales, and employ more than 36,000 people.

Our message is straightforward: Saskatchewan has what the world wants, especially when it comes to minerals and metals, and advanced manufacturing. Canada is fortunate to have abundant uranium, potash, rare earth minerals, and other critical resources, and Saskatchewan is home to many of them.

Saskatchewan's advanced manufacturing and industrial companies are also hard at work, innovating and building in the nuclear and defence sectors, and many more.

The supply chain companies I represent, are essential partners in developing these resources. We work with the governments of Canada and Saskatchewan, Indigenous partners, and the private sector to help unlock that economic potential.

We know first-hand how important the mining and critical minerals, and advanced manufacturing sectors are to our economy. We are working to ensure our members, and the people they employ, can fully participate in and benefit from, that growth. We want to do even more to help build a strong Canadian economy, a thriving mining sector, and a more economically resilient country.

When it comes to CUSMA, we are aware of the ongoing discussions and the broader trade environment. Many of our member companies, are closely engaged in their own sectors, and are best placed to speak to the specific pressures they face.

At a broad level, our members support stability, and predictability, in any future agreement.

We are optimistic that an agreement will be reached, but we are concerned. The companies with whom SIMSA's members work - the mining and oil companies - could be affected, if there are impacts to exports to the United States and Mexico. If SIMSA's customers, face higher costs or new barriers, it could trickle down through the supply chain, and the impact could be significant for our members.

However, we are concerned about the impact of higher tariffs on our members and on the supply chain. For example, several SIMSA members manufacture heavy mining equipment in Saskatchewan, using local innovation and technology.

If steel tariffs rise, that could increase their costs, and make it much harder to sell that equipment into the United States. In some cases, those added costs could make contracts uneconomical.

We are also watching the risk of new tariffs. At present, CUSMA-compliant critical minerals are generally exempt from new U.S. tariffs. If that were to change, there could be impacts across the supply chain. Those impacts are difficult to predict, but higher tariffs generally mean higher costs, and greater uncertainty.

There are challenges we face, but our members want to be part of the solution.

SIMSA's perspective can make our position stronger, and our voice matters.

We urge the government to work with SIMSA and our members, to ensure that supply chain issues and opportunities, are included by groups like the Major Projects Office, who are working hard now to make the Canadian economy stronger and more resilient.

I am looking forward to sharing our perspectives with you today.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear. I look forward to your questions.