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Kaine & Coons Introduce Legislation to Require Congressional Approval of New Tariffs on U.S. Allies Ahead of Expected Trump Tariffs

25% tariffs expected to go into effect against Mexico and Canada soon, damaging relations with our two closest allies.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Senators Tim Kaine (D-VA), and Chris Coons (D-DE), both members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, introduced the *Stopping Tariffs on Allies and Bolstering Legislative Exercise of (STABLE) Trade Policy Act* to rein in chaos that President Trump could create by unilaterally imposing tariffs on trading partners.

The *STABLE Trade Policy Act* would institute a requirement of Congressional approval before a president could impose new tariffs on U.S. allies and free trade agreement (FTA) partners. Currently, the president can impose tariffs on any nation using authorities that Congress created to combat national security risks and address international emergencies. The bill reinstates Congressional authority over trade policy and limits the president’s ability to unilaterally impose tariffs on our allies.

“Virginians want costs to go down, not up. But President Trump’s plans to impose broad-based tariffs would raise the price of everyday goods and hurt our economy,” **said Kaine**. “It’s time for Congress to make it clear that no president should abuse existing tariff authorities designed to protect America’s national security from threats posed by our adversaries to slap tariffs on our allies and closest trading partners. I’m proud to introduce this legislation with Senator Coons to take that step to protect Americans’ pocketbooks from sharp price hikes and safeguard our relationships with our allies.”

The introduction of *STABLE Trade Policy Act* comes shortly before President Trump’s across-the-board tariffs on Canada and Mexico are expected to be announced. On his first day in office, President Trump pledged to implement 25% tariffs on Mexico and Canada. The two nations, both members a trade agreement that President Trump negotiated, accounted for almost one-third of all U.S. goods imports last year. The tariffs set to go into effect soon are expected to raise the costs of **gasoline, cars, groceries, and home goods**.

Specifically, the *STABLE Trade Policy Act* would:

- Require the president to explain to Congress any proposal to impose tariffs on allies and FTA partners.
 - The president must explain why challenges with allies cannot be better addressed through diplomacy or other mechanisms.
 - The president must assess of how tariffs will impact the U.S. economy and U.S. foreign policy interests.
- Require Congressional approval for new or additional tariffs on imports from allies and FTA partners.
 - The bill constrains tariff authorities created by Congress to combat national security risks and address international economic emergencies.
 - The executive branch retains full authority to impose safeguard tariffs to combat unfair trade practices.

Kaine is committed to protecting Virginian families from price hikes imposed by tariffs. Last week, he introduced the *Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes on Imported Goods Act* to shield American families and businesses from increased costs by limiting the president’s authority to impose unlimited tariffs under the *International Emergency Economic Powers Act* (IEEPA).

The full bill text is available [here](#).

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