



March 28, 2023

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto  
U.S. Senator  
520 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cortez Masto:

On behalf of the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) and our more than 320 American aerospace and defense (A&D) member companies, thank you for your leadership in introducing S.4015, the *Securing America's Titanium Manufacturing Act*. This legislation would reduce the cost of defense and commercial aerospace products, promote investment in the U.S. defense industrial base, and advance U.S. leadership abroad.

The U.S. A&D industry supports Congress's efforts to enhance the competitiveness of America's titanium industry. AIA continues to advocate for the removal of tariffs on titanium sponge imports from column one most-favored nations (such as Japan) until such time as domestic titanium sponge production can be reestablished.

Critical components of titanium, such as titanium forgings, castings, machined components, and fasteners, are used in military and commercial applications including aircraft frames, jet engines, naval vessels, satellites, munitions, and more. They are vital to the health of our industry. The conflict in Ukraine and challenges in the Indo-Pacific highlight the risks posed by disruptions of critical markets, the impact of restricted access to these markets on U.S. readiness, and the importance of allies and partners.

Historically, the U.S. titanium industry has relied on imports of titanium sponge, sourcing 86 percent from Japan, a longstanding U.S. ally<sup>1</sup>. Moreover, the last remaining titanium sponge manufacturing facility in the U.S. closed indefinitely in 2020 - meaning the United States is now 100 percent reliant on foreign sources. Despite no domestic production of sponge, a tariff applies to all imports.

A&D companies and their domestic titanium suppliers are thus operating at a tariff-induced 15 percent cost disadvantage vis-à-vis foreign producers, including those in Russia and China, who do not pay tariffs on their local supplies of titanium sponge. This comes as the world is actively seeking alternatives to Russian sources of supply as a result of its invasion of Ukraine.

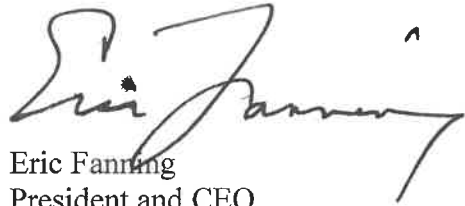
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<sup>1</sup> ['Mineral Commodity Summaries 2023,'](#) U.S. Geological Survey, accessed March '24

Therefore, we urge the Senate to bring the *Securing America's Titanium Manufacturing Act* to the floor for consideration to ensure the U.S. has access to a secure and reliable supply of titanium sponge in an era of strategic competition.

AIA and our member companies look forward to continuing to work with you on this crucial national security issue.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Fanning". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small "a" above the final "y".

Eric Fanning  
President and CEO  
Aerospace Industries Association

CC: *Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-TN)*  
*Senator Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)*  
*Senator Joe Manchin (D-WV)*  
*Senator Thom Tillis (R-NC)*