



On behalf of the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA) and its 150,000 members, I am writing to express our strong opposition to the significant new tariffs imposed on imported model aircraft, model aircraft components, and related hobby products. These tariffs will significantly increase costs on our members, negatively impact small businesses, and hurt AMA's ability to support educational initiatives. We urge you to work with the Administration to reverse these tariffs.

Model aviation is more than a cherished hobby for individuals. Model aviation and our local clubs are woven in the fabric of communities across the country. AMA clubs are deeply engaged in their communities and support educational and veterans' organizations nationwide. Most importantly, model aviation plays a fundamental role as the steppingstone to careers in STEM and aviation, both military and civilian, which are key to our nation's long-term economic growth. The tariffs on model aircraft and components, such as aircraft engines, batteries, and specialized equipment, are having a detrimental effect not only on our members but also educators, nonprofit organizations, and small businesses that rely on affordable access to quality products to continue participating in and supporting the hobby. Tariffs of up to 145% make these products unaffordable for individuals and organizations who use model aviation for educational purposes.

The impact of tariffs is affecting not only individuals who are paying higher prices for products, but they are hurting the small businesses that sell these products and are already seeing decreased demand. Educational and civic organizations use model aviation as a teaching tool but are unable to afford the increases, forcing programs to be scaled back or canceled. Unfortunately, our members and the broader community do not have adequate US-manufactured substitutes.

We understand and support the need for economic policies that promote fair trade and protect American businesses. Model aircraft and their component parts are simple, low-margin products and it is unlikely that US manufacturers would be interested in entering a niche market. If the tariffs remain in place, the government needs to develop policies that promote US manufacturing for these types of products. Until that happens, tariffs undermine the benefits of the model aviation community and the opportunities it provides to our communities.

The AMA urges you to engage with the Administration to reconsider the tariffs on model aviation products and components and to look for ways to help establish U.S. manufacturing capabilities for low cost model aircraft and components. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this matter with you and explore potential solutions that will not harm our members and the thousands of businesses and educational institutions that rely on this vital industry.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue. We look forward to working with you to ensure that model aviation continues to thrive in the United States.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tyler Dobbs".

Tyler Dobbs
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