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TRUMP STEEL TARRIFFS UPHELD

The U.S. Court of International Trade upheld the Trump administration's tariffs on imported steel earlier today. This decision (here) affirms the government's power to restrict trade in the name of national security.

The court found that that the tariffs were imposed in accordance with existing law and, therefore, rejected efforts by a U.S. steel importation company to eliminate the duties completely.

Former President Donald Trump imposed a 25% levy on steel and 10% duty on aluminum in 2018 using Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962. This law allows the President to set import restrictions on the basis of national security.

The Court's opinion noted that the Trump administration had detailed adequately the specific security threats posed by certain imports and, therefore, that the tariffs would remain in place "until and unless such actions are expressly reduced, modified, or terminated." That statement effectively serves as defining the "duration" of the duties, according to the court.

This ruling means that the current 25% tariffs on steel imports from numerous countries, but specifically excluding Canada and Mexico, will remain in place until the Biden Administration acts to revise the tariffs or Congress passes a law countermanding the administration action.