

AMERICA PROTECTS STEEL AND COPPER. WHY NOT CEMENT?

The U.S. government actively protects domestic steel and copper industries to safeguard American workers from predatory foreign competitors and to secure national security infrastructure.

Yet cement — a \$159 billion American industry supporting 577,000 jobs — remains completely exposed. Leaving this foundational sector excluded from federal procurement and trade protections endangers U.S. national security, undermine our domestic supply chains, and enables market distortions from foreign competitors.

	CATEGORY	STEEL	COPPER	CEMENT
Supply Chain Vulnerability	U.S. Import Reliance ¹	13% (iron and steel)	57%	21%
	China Overcapacity Threat ¹	Nearly 12x U.S. raw steel output	Over 16x U.S. refinery production	Over 20x U.S. production
National Security Usage	Defense Applications	Ships, Armored Vehicles, Hardened Infrastructure	Aircraft, Vehicles, Ships, Submarines, Missiles, Ammunition	Runways, Hangars, Ports, Hardened Infrastructure
	Emergency Response	Structural Frameworks, Bridges, and Buildings	Communication Networks and Medical Devices	Transportation, Energy, and Drinking Water Infrastructure
Federal and Trade Protections	Build America, Buy America Coverage ²	Protected (Iron and steel)	Protected (Non-ferrous metals)	Excluded
	Section 232 Trade Status ³	Protected (Iron and steel)	Protected	None
	Section 232 Tariff Rate ³	50% (Exceptions exist)	50% (Exceptions exist)	0%



AMERICAN CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AT RISK

Cement overproduction and predatory manufacturing practices from countries including [China](#), [Turkey](#), [Vietnam](#), and [Egypt](#) pose a clear threat to U.S. supply chains. When we rely on foreign producers, we forfeit control over our own building timelines. While a delayed highway repair is merely an inconvenience, supply bottlenecks that stall hardened military bases, energy facilities, water infrastructure, and airports create a national security crisis.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

To secure our manufacturing independence and protect American communities, policymakers must extend the same robust trade and procurement protections to domestic cement that steel and copper already receive.

- 1** **Initiate Section 232 investigations** under the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 to curb the flow of state-sponsored and unreliable foreign cement.
- 2** **Expand Build America, Buy America requirements** to explicitly include cement and close this loophole.

¹ U.S. Geological Survey. [Mineral Commodity Summaries 2026](#). 2026.

² National Science Foundation. [Frequently Asked Questions about Build America, Buy America Act](#). 2022.

³ Federal Register. [Further Adjusting the Tariff Regimes for Imports of Aluminum, Steel, and Copper Into the United States](#). 2026.