

# Trump has other tariff options after Supreme Court strikes down his worldwide import taxes

BY PAUL WISEMAN  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump still has options to keep taxing imports aggressively even after the Supreme Court struck down the tariffs he imposed last year on nearly every country on earth.

The Justices didn't buy the president's sweeping claims of authority to impose tariffs as he sees fit. But Trump can re-use tariff powers he deployed in his first term and can reach for others, including one that dates back to the Great Depression.

"Their decision is incorrect," Trump said Friday, calling the Supreme Court justices who ruled against his tariffs "fools and lap-dogs" during a press conference. "But it doesn't matter because we have very powerful alternatives."

Indeed, the president has already said he will impose a 10% global tariff under a trade law that allows

such duties for 150 days. After that, they can only be extended by Congress.

Trump also said he would use a range of other laws and regulations to impose new tariffs, though most of those statutes would require a legal process before duties could be imposed. And he pointed to his ability to use licenses to restrain imports, but offered few details.

Trump had claimed nearly boundless authority to impose tariffs under 1977 International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA). But opponents argued before the Supreme Court that that power wasn't necessary because Congress delegated tariff power to the White House in several other statutes — though it carefully limited the ways the president could use the authority.

Tariffs have been a cornerstone of Trump's foreign and economic policy in his second term, with double-digit "reciprocal" tariffs imposed on most countries, which

he has justified by declaring America's longstanding trade deficits a national emergency.

The average U.S. tariff has gone from 2.5% when Trump returned to the White House in January to nearly 17% a year later, the highest since 1934, according to calculations by Yale University's Budget Lab.

The president acted alone even though the U.S. Constitution specifically gives the power to tax — and impose tariffs — to Congress.

"The Good News is that there are methods, practices, Statutes, and other Authorities, as recognized by the entire Court and Congress, that are even stronger than the IEEPA TARIFFS, available to me as President of the United States of America," Trump posted on his social media site.

## COUNTERING UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES

The United States has long had a handy cudgel to wallop countries it

accuses of engaging in "unjustifiable," "unreasonable" or "discriminatory" trade practices. That is Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974.

And Trump has made aggressive use of it himself — especially against China. In his first term, he cited Section 301 to impose sweeping tariffs on Chinese imports in a dispute over the sharp-elbowed tactics that Beijing was using to challenge America's technological dominance. The U.S. is also using 301 powers to counter what it calls unfair Chinese practices in the shipbuilding industry.

There are no limits on the size of Section 301 tariffs. They expire after four years but can be extended.

But the administration's trade representative must conduct an investigation and typically hold a public hearing before imposing 301 tariffs. On Friday, Trump also said the administration would initiate several more Section 301 investigations.

Experts have said Section 301 is useful in taking on China. But it has drawbacks when it comes to dealing with the smaller countries that Trump has hammered with reciprocal tariffs.

"Undertaking dozens and dozens of 301 investigations of all of those countries is a laborious process," Veroneau said.

## TARGETING TRADE DEFICITS

In striking down Trump's reciprocal tariffs in May, the U.S. Court of International Trade ruled that the president couldn't use emergency powers to combat trade deficits.

That is partly because Congress had specifically given the White House limited authority to address the problem in another statute: Section 122, also of the Trade Act of 1974. That allows the president to impose tariffs of up to 15% for up to 150 days in response to

SEE TARIFF, PAGE 18



**HANK AARON IS FROM HERE. SO IS AMERICA'S ORIGINAL MARDI GRAS.** Mobile, Alabama has been hosting successful meetings for more than 300 years. We invite you and your group to experience this exciting port city for yourself. Stay in the heart of the excitement at Renaissance Riverview Plaza. From family reunions to association meetings to corporate conventions, Renaissance Riverview offers 373 affordable guest rooms, great meeting space and four diamond service. See magnificent views of Mobile Bay or downtown's historic architecture from your room. Sample the freshest seafood or great steaks and walk to Mobile's arts and entertainment districts.

**COME EXPERIENCE OUR HOSPITALITY, HISTORY AND HERITAGE.** Meet me in Mobile. Let our meeting experts assist in planning your next gathering. To learn more visit [www.renaissanceriverview.com](http://www.renaissanceriverview.com) or call 251.415.3715. [www.rjtjresorts.com](http://www.rjtjresorts.com).

