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## Amidst High Unemployment, Obama Once Again Increases Prices on American Consumers

*At a time of soaring unemployment, Obama introduces job killing trade policy*

WASHINGTON, D.C.—On Thursday, the Obama Administration announced a new set of tariffs on Chinese imports, directed this time at steel pipes. The new tariff places duties as much as 99% on imported steel products, escalating what may become an outright trade war with China. This most recent tariff increase comes after the Administration has already raised import taxes on poultry and tires.

**“Whether you label it as a fee, a duty, or a tariff, Obama continues to raise taxes on American consumption”** stated Grover Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform, **“In the short term, this decision will only raise steel prices, but in the long term it will raise the cost of everything from automobiles to energy—and will cost countless jobs.”**

China and the United States engage in \$409 billion worth of trade, but that has not stopped Obama from enacting a series of discriminatory trade measures. Steel pipes are used in nearly every heavy industry. The new tariff particularly targets products necessary for the manufacture of automobiles and the production of oil and natural gas. Prices on imported pipes for use in the energy industry are set to rise by 36.5%.

This barrier to trade represents the second major victory for big labor in the burgeoning trade war with China. The United Steel Workers first reaped the benefits from last month’s tariff on Chinese tires, which are manufactured by members of the powerful union. The Obama administration has developed a pattern of capitulating to the interests of big labor, while other sectors of the economy bleed jobs. Unemployment in the United States has now topped 10.2%, the highest level since 1983.

**“It is certainly troubling to see the direction in which trade policy is heading,”** continued Norquist, **“Obama pledged not to raise taxes on the middle class, and he broke that pledge mere days into his presidency. He pledged to fight against protectionism, and has repeatedly broken that pledge as well. This most recent example demonstrates that, even in the face of double-digit unemployment, Obama is willing to sacrifice American jobs in order to appease the interests of his friends in the labor movement.”**

*Americans for Tax Reform is a non-partisan coalition of taxpayers and taxpayer groups who oppose all tax increases. For more information or to arrange an interview please contact John Kartch at (202) 785-0266 or by email at [jkartch@atr.org](mailto:jkartch@atr.org).*