

FAIR TRADE NOT FREE TRADE
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American businesses should not be required to compete unfairly. They should not be handicapped by a government supposedly working for us. Citizens and municipalities should demand our national government restore a level playing field to American enterprises.

It should not be possible for foreign companies to sell products here without fair practices being enforced. Any product, coming into America to compete with products made here, should be taxed with the difference in manufacturing costs. They should have excise taxes added equal to costs of the safety, environmental, and wage restrictions with which American producers are saddled, but outside competition is not. Because they can, manufacturers leave such U.S. regulations behind, produce the same products for less, and import them back into the country at a higher profit. If excise taxes were added to such products to again level the playing field, jobs would find their way back onto American soil.

Moreover, our government charges restrictive and exorbitant fees to “protect” intellectual property rights with patents. If a patent has been applied for, paid for, and held by an American, then U.S. patent rights should be protected. Yet, they are currently willfully violated by any other manufacturer in the world, especially those in China. At the very least, such products ought to be stopped at our borders as illegal for sale in this country. Yet, they are imported freely. Where is the incentive to invent, to exercise ingenuity and perseverance? When the effort and expense to protect intellectual property is made irrelevant by the deliberate turning of our government’s collective head?

Free trade is costing us and our economy dearly.