

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING
AJR 14 (Gipson)
As Introduced June 9, 2025
Majority vote

SUMMARY

This Resolution urges federal trade and economic agencies to assess the impacts of current U.S. tariff policies on California's port infrastructure and global trade competitiveness. It calls for coordinated strategies to mitigate trade disruptions and support the long-term resilience of the state's ports. The resolution highlights the critical role California's ports play in national supply chains and seeks federal engagement to address tariff-related challenges.

Major Provisions

COMMENTS

California's 12 commercial seaports are essential pillars of both the state and national economies. They directly provide employment for more than 500,000 Californians across sectors such as maritime operations, logistics, and freight transportation. When including indirect and induced impacts, total employment linked to these ports exceeds one million jobs statewide. Nationally, they support approximately three million jobs.

The San Pedro Bay port complex, comprising the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, alone generates over 225,000 direct jobs in Southern California and supports more than 2.7 million jobs across the country. Other major ports, such as Oakland and Port Hueneme, also play a significant role in driving regional economic activity.

However, ongoing U.S. trade tensions—particularly with China and other major trading partners—have introduced new uncertainties for California's ports. Tariffs, retaliatory measures, and shifts in global supply chains are impacting cargo volumes, altering trade flows, and challenging long-standing logistics networks. As gateways for a significant share of America's imports and exports, these ports are on the front lines of trade policy shifts.

Despite these challenges, California's ports remain powerful engines of job creation and indispensable components of the U.S. trade and supply chain infrastructure. Their adaptability and strategic importance are critical to maintaining economic resilience amid an increasingly complex global trade environment.

According to the Author

According to the author, "California's ports are crucial for trade, but recent tariff changes have caused disruptions, raising costs for businesses and slowing down port operations. This has led to longer wait times, logistical issues, and uncertainty for workers in port-related jobs. The financial strain from tariffs also makes it harder to invest in needed infrastructure upgrades. This bill urges federal agencies to recognize the harm these tariffs are causing and work together to find solutions that stabilize trade and support the growth and competitiveness of California's ports."

Arguments in Support

The Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA), representing ocean carriers and marine terminals at California's public seaports, supports AJR 14. They note that the resolution emphasizes the need for sustained investment in California's port infrastructure and recognizes that unpredictable policy environments pose challenges to long-term planning and global competitiveness.

Arguments in Opposition

None on file.

FISCAL COMMENTS

None.

VOTES

ASM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, GROWTH, AND HOUSEHOLD IMPACT: 7-0-1

YES: Solache, Castillo, Patel, Petrie-Norris, Soria, Stefani, Wallis

ABS, ABST OR NV: Bonta

UPDATED

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