

Blakes

Energy Storage Alberta Summit

Tariffs, Trade and the Storage Supply Chain

April 16, 2026

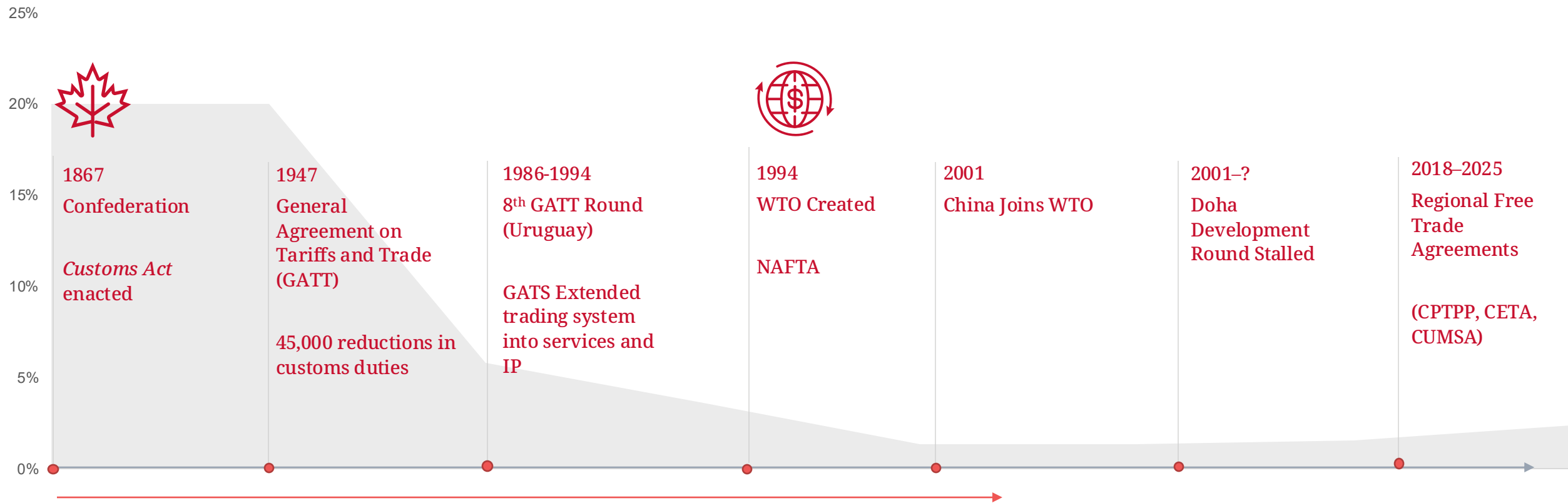
Agenda

1. The International Trade Law Context
2. The Energy Storage Industry - Two Strategies for Supply Chain Stability



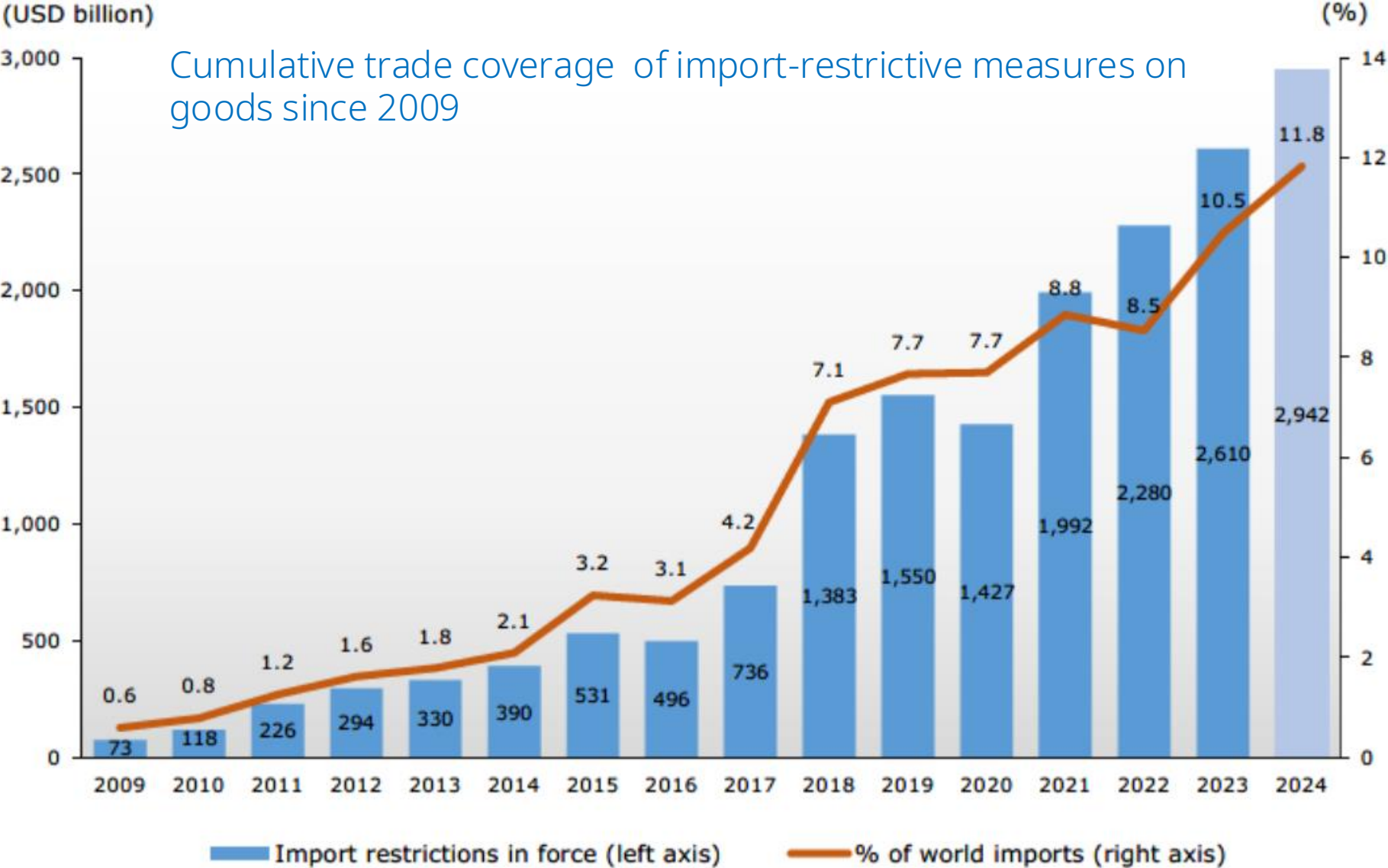
The International Trade Law Context

The Post-WWII Free Trade Era



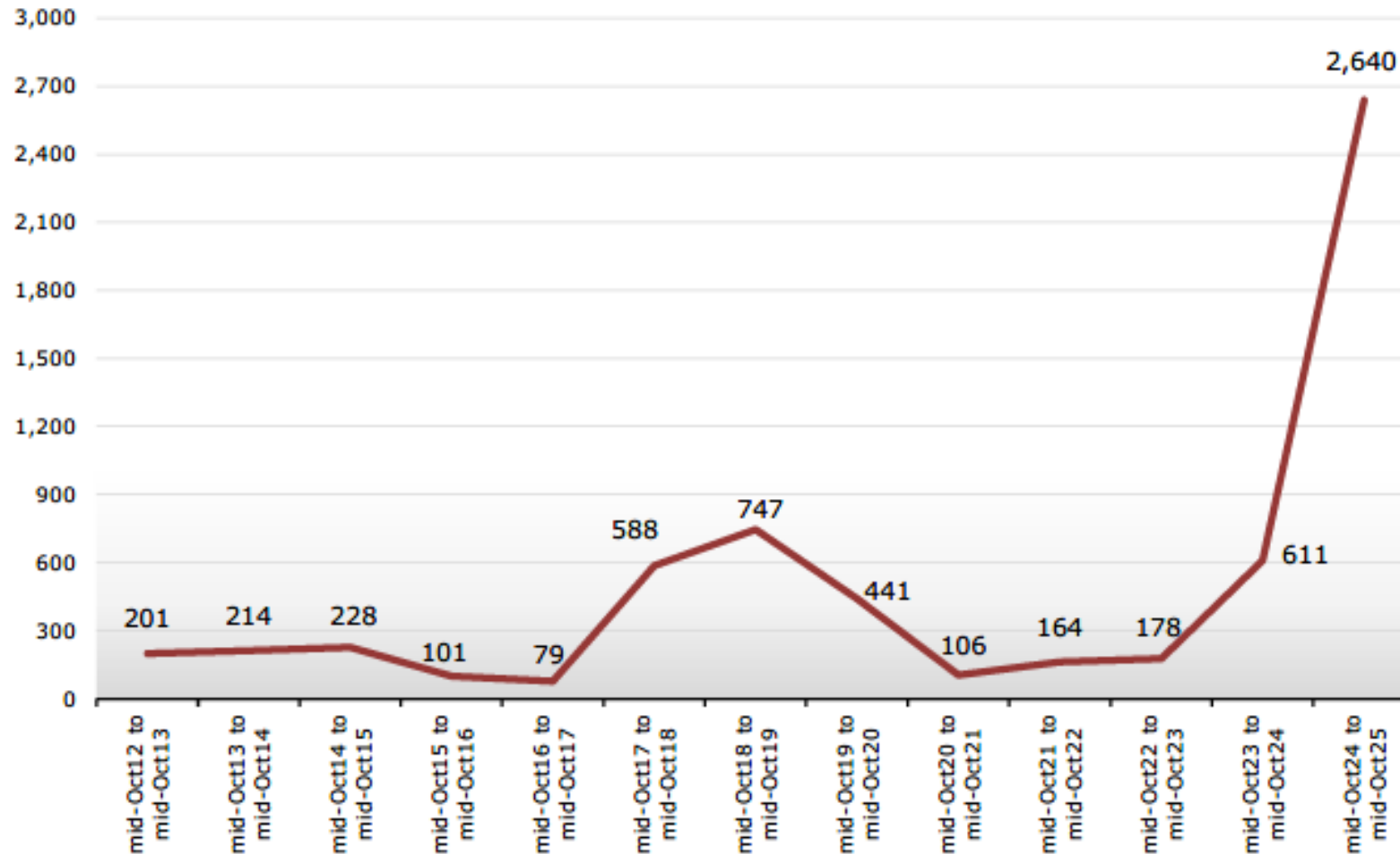
- By 1995, tariffs on manufactured goods fell from a trade-weighted average of approximately **22%** (1947) to **3-5%** (1995).
- World trade increased by a factor of **17 (1,700%)** between 1950 and 1995, mostly driven by GATT.
- Canada's trade-weighted average tariff was **1.43%** in 2022 ([World Bank WITS](#)) and **3.4%** in 2023.

The Post-WWII Free Trade Era... is Ending

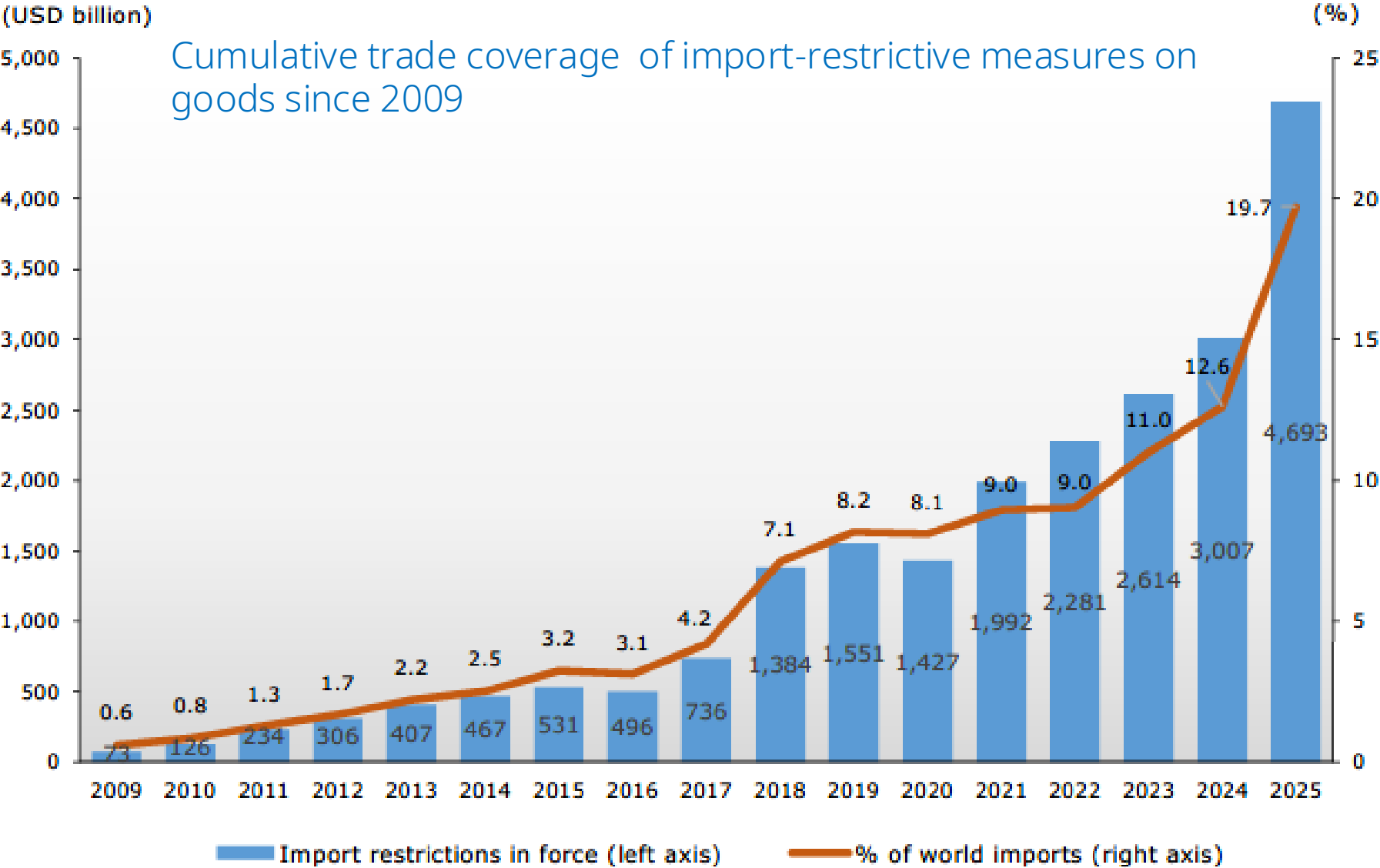


The Post-WWII Free Trade Era... is Ending

Trade coverage of new other trade and trade-related measures affecting imports identified in each period (not cumulative) in USD billion, October 2012 – October 2025



The Post-WWII Free Trade Era... is Ending



The Energy Storage Industry: Two Strategies for Supply Chain Stability

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1. You need a good industry lobby
not a lawyer



**Canadian Renewable
Energy Association**
WIND. SOLAR. STORAGE.

**Association canadienne
de l'énergie renouvelable**
ÉOLIEN. SOLAIRE. STOCKAGE.

The Rules Based Order



Bound Tariffs

Maximum tariff rates enshrined in Treaty



Most-Favoured Nation Non-Discrimination

Same preferential treatment must be given to all members



Regional Trade Agreements



Trade Remedies (through legal proceedings)

- Anti-dumping duties
- Anti-subsidy (countervailing) duties
- Safeguard duties

Political Trade Rules

Goods subject to 25% Steel Derivatives Surtax effective December 26, 2025

	slings and the like, of iron or steel, not electrically insulated.	
7312.90.00	Stranded wire, ropes, cables, plaited bands, slings and the like, of iron or steel, not electrically insulated.	Other
7313.00.00	Barbed wire of iron or steel; twisted hoop or single flat wire, barbed or not, and loosely twisted double wire, of a kind used for fencing, of iron or steel.	
7314.12.00	Cloth (including endless bands), grill, netting and fencing, of iron or	Woven cloth: Endless bands for machinery, of stainless steel

Political Trade Rules

“When the Government announced details of the surtax, it also announced that requests for remission will be considered on a case-by-case basis ...

To date, remission requests from stakeholders have expressed concerns that surtaxes applicable to wind towers imported for installation east of the Ontario-Manitoba border will negatively impact near-term wind farm projects, particularly those with fixed-price electricity contracts that are unable to pass on the cost of the tariff.”

Steel Derivative Goods Surtax Remission Order, SOR/2026-34

Remission — wind towers

4 Subject to section 5, remission is granted of surtaxes paid or payable under the *Steel Derivative Goods Surtax Order* in respect of utility wind towers, and sections of those towers, that are classified under tariff item 7308.20.00 and that:

- (a)** are imported for installation on an offshore energy project; or
- (b)** are the subject of a purchase order, signed before December 26, 2025 by the proponent of an energy project in Canada, that specifies their price and quantity.

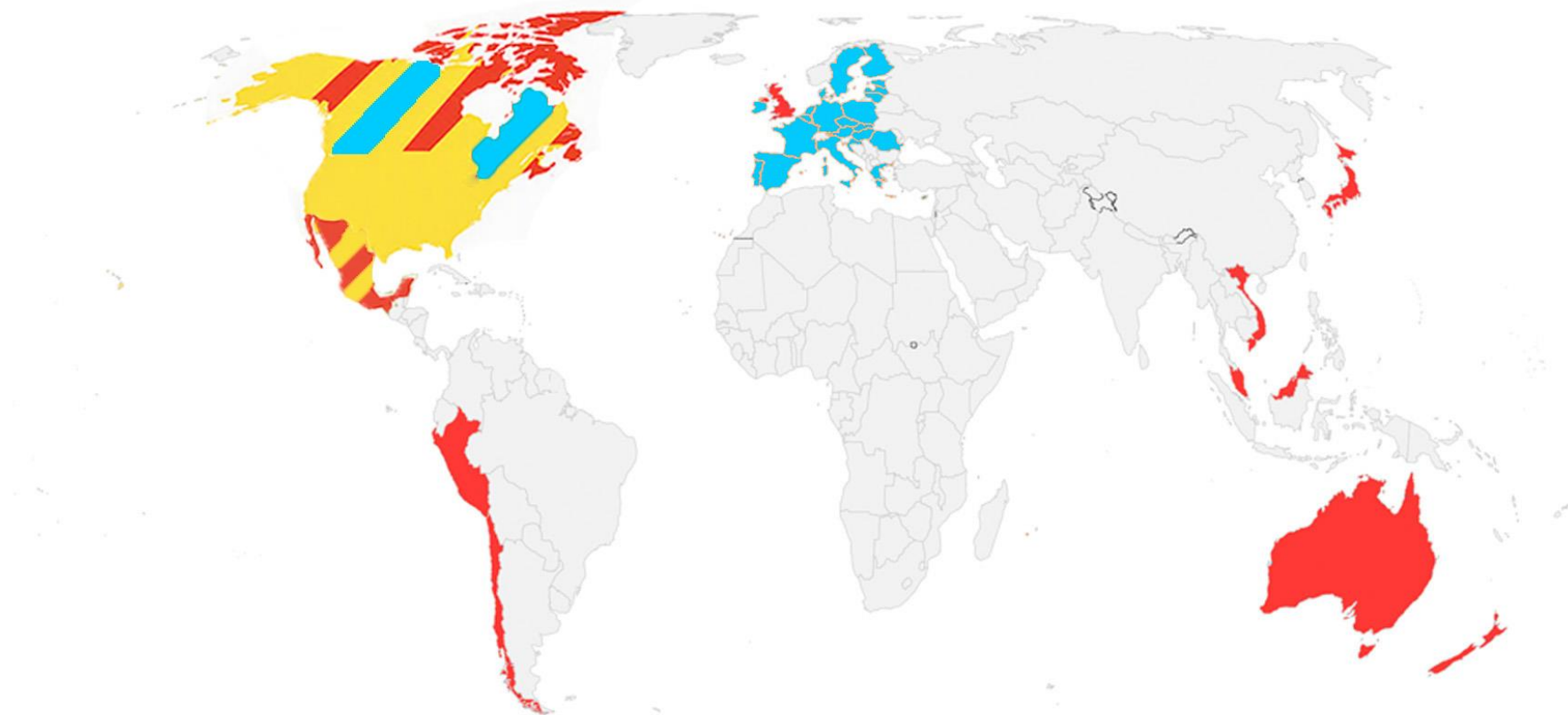


2. Planning and cultivating supply chains will be the new normal.

- Canadian has announced launch of a national supply chain office.
- Remission applicants are increasingly directed to consult domestic suppliers.
- Trade barriers moving downstream from raw materials to finished goods.
- Canadian businesses are working with factories to move from China to Vietnam (CPTPP) or other FTA countries.

Regional Trade Map

Trade Blocs ■ CPTPP ■ CETA ■ CUSMA





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