

# NORTHWEST LABOR PRESS

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**Office location:**  
4275 NE Halsey St., Portland, Oregon

**Mailing address:**  
P.O. Box 13150, Portland, OR 97213

**Phone:** (503) 288-3311

**Web address:**  
<http://nwlaborpress.org>

**Editor & Manager:** Michael Gutwig  
**Associate editor:** Don McIntosh  
**Office manager:** Cheri Rice

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## TRADE

### AFL-CIO applauds Trump for imposing tariffs on foreign steel, aluminum

President Donald Trump on March 8 signed paperwork enacting import tariffs of 25 percent on steel and 10 percent on aluminum during a White House event attended by a handful of steel and aluminum workers.

To enact the tariffs he employed a rarely used legal provision known as Section 232 that allows the president to impose tariffs unilaterally if imports are determined to pose a national-security risk. Canada and Mexico were temporarily exempted from the tariffs, and Trump held out the possibility that other allies could later be excluded as well.

The move drew praise from

AFL-CIO President Richard Trumka. “Wall Street’s hair is on fire over these tariffs because wealthy investors enrich themselves by closing mills and factories in the United States and moving them overseas,” Trumka said in a statement. “Using tariffs isn’t going to start a trade war. There’s been a war on working people for decades, and we have been getting our butts kicked.”

Trumka said there are 435 tariffs in place today to fight trade cheaters. “People may not like how President Trump rolled these out, but I applaud him for trying.”

The tariffs take effect March 23.

## BUY UNION

### No more ‘American Idle’?

UAW is calling on Americans to buy American. And sing about it.

Remember the “Look for the Union Label” jingle on TV? If you do, you’re probably over 50: The ad, created as part of a union-sponsored contest, last aired in 1981. [Watch it at [nwlaborpress.org/buy-union](http://nwlaborpress.org/buy-union)].

United Auto Workers (UAW) is ready for an update: On March 7, it announced a “Make it in the USA” song and video contest with four \$5,000 prizes for the best 2018 version of the jingle. The Make it in the USA contest calls on participants to submit short videos that focus on the

value of manufacturing and buying products domestically. Prizes will be given to winning entries in each of four categories: song; non-song; union member; and people’s choice. The deadline for submissions is April 25, and the winning videos will be announced June 1.

“By manufacturing goods in the United States and spending our consumer dollars on those goods, we strengthen our communities from the ground up,” said UAW International President Dennis Williams. “This contest is an innovative way to get Americans to think about how they can reward employers who respect worker rights and the environment, and who hire from the community and give back to those who help us all grow.”

The contest will be judged by Tom Morello from Rage Against the Machine; Heather McGhee from the think tank Demos; and John Acosta, president of the American Federation of Musicians Local 47, which represents more 7,000 professional musicians in southern California.

**TO FIND OUT MORE**  
Visit [BuildBuyUSA.org/contest](http://BuildBuyUSA.org/contest)

## NATIONAL

### Teachers strike in West Virginia results in 5% raise

A nine-day strike by West Virginia teachers and support staff ended in victory March 6 with lawmakers agreeing to a 5 percent wage hike for all public employees in the Mountain State.

The work stoppage by 33,000 teachers, who rank near the bottom nationally in pay and benefits, started Feb. 22 and closed

every school in the state. Teachers then took their protest to the state capitol in Charleston, where they found strong support from workers across the United States.

After much resistance, the GOP-led Legislature agreed to the wage increase. Gov. Jim Justice signed the bill on March 6.

Randi Weingarten, president of the American Federation of

Teachers, told Reuters that the strike was indicative of the state’s long history of labor activism as a coal mining hub, and of the planning that educators had done before walking out.

“When you are pushed to the brink, people will stand up and show up and they will fight for themselves and their families,” she said.

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