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Office of the Governor

April 14, 2025

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

First, I am writing to you to express my sincere appreciation for your efforts to return manufacturing jobs back to United States soil. The ingenuity of American manufacturers, combined with the dedication and talent of their workforce, has long driven the United States to its position as the world's leading economy. Second, I write to share concerns about the impacts of tariffs on Nevada's burgeoning lithium industry.


The continued innovation and evolution of American manufacturing have opened the door to exciting new opportunities and products across various sectors, including energy. Nevada, home to North America's largest known lithium deposits, stands at the forefront of this transformation. Developing this vital resource will not only complement existing energy sources but also play a key role in advancing our shared goal of achieving U.S. energy independence. Nevada has already become a hub for energy technology and remains committed to attracting and driving continued growth in this space.

However, the lithium industry is still in its early stages. At present, there is no domestic technology capable of refining lithium to the standards required for manufacturing while also meeting our country's environmental regulations. As a result all manufacturing grade lithium is imported from China. As you can imagine this is damaging all United States manufacturing that is dependent on this product. In fact, this is the case with many critical minerals including magnesium, nickel and cobalt, which are essential to the defense industry as well.

Currently, some companies are exporting lithium to Canada and Mexico for processing, then importing the refined product back into the United States. This practice threatens American operations and domestic jobs. Moreover, U.S. companies—including those in Nevada—cannot absorb the costs of newly imposed tariffs, rendering them increasingly uncompetitive in the global market.

Mr. President, I respectfully urge you to reconsider and remove the tariffs on lithium. Given that domestic processing is not yet a viable option, the current environment poses a serious risk to jobs in Nevada and across the country. Your timely attention to this issue is deeply appreciated. Removing the tariffs on lithium will help secure American jobs, strengthen our economy, and support our path toward energy independence.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joe Lombardo', with a stylized, flowing script.

Joe Lombardo
Governor