



Committee: House Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science & Related Agencies
Event: [Budget Hearing – Fiscal Year 2027 – The Office of the United States Trade Representative](#)
Date: April 16, 2026

Executive Summary:

U.S. Trade Representative's (USTR) Ambassador Jamieson Greer appeared before the Committee to defend USTR's increased budget request, citing needs for increased staffing to execute tariff investigations, enact trade deals, and ensure compliance with trading partners. Democrats highlighted rising costs as a result of the tariffs, while Republicans were more interested in trade enforcement and potential economic benefits.

Member Toplines:

*Chair Hal Rogers (R-KY-05)*¹: Rogers stated that USTR requested \$95 million for fiscal year 2027 (FY27), a 8 percent increase from FY26 to support hiring and investigative work. He noted that USTR is working on U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) renegotiation and a series of Section 301 investigations targeting over 60 nations to address forced labor and excess manufacturing capacity. He underscored that USTR must ensure that rival nations, such as China, are unable to take advantage of the U.S. via unfair trade practices.

Ranking Member Grace Meng (D-NY-06): Meng stressed that the current administration's trade policies have created uncertainty and high costs for American families and businesses, leading to mounting material and input costs. She acknowledged that tariffs can be useful in addressing trade imbalances, but underscored that the current approach has been unlawful, opaque, ripe for corruption, and harmful to both domestic business, citizens, and allies, pointing to tariff vacillation and the reliance on social media to announce said changes. Meng provided an overview of the past few months of tariff volatility and noted that 90 percent of the economic burden of tariffs has fallen on U.S. businesses and consumers, leading to an effective tax of nearly \$1,700 on American households. She also reported that tariffs have led to \$11,000 in added costs to new home builds.

Witness Toplines:

[Ambassador Jamieson Greer, Office of USTR](#): Greer opened by emphasizing that the current tariff policy is working, pointing to a 24 percent trade deficit decrease and increased U.S. exports. He highlighted that Dodge and Jeep have invested over \$13 billion to return manufacturing lines to the U.S. and touted Whirlpool's expansion. He emphasized the value of nine new free trade agreements and other pending deals, underscoring that tariff and non-tariff

¹ Opening statements were not available at the time of this memo's distribution.

barriers have been eliminated. He stressed the need to properly resource USTR to support personnel and therefore negotiations.

Major Takeaways:

Budget Defense & USTR Functions

- Rogers noted that Congress already increased USTR's budget by \$14 million last year; he had Greer explain why they requested an additional \$7 million. Greer attested to the need for staffing and enforcement resources, citing the recent completion of nine trade agreements.
- Rep. **Andrew Clyde** (R-GA-09) asked Greer what the budget increase's return on investment looks like. Greer cited expanded trade deals, increased exports, and increased staffing for trade deal monitoring and enforcement to ensure gains are realized.
- Rep. **Dale Strong** (R-AL-05) asked how USTR is enforcing export controls; Greer attested to their strong trade agreements.

China & Mineral Supply Chains

- Rogers asked about the upcoming meeting between Presidents **Xi Jinping** and **Donald Trump**. Greer replied that the U.S. is focused on ensuring continued receipt of rare earth minerals, while ensuring that China continues to purchase U.S. products.
- Clyde returned to the topic of critical minerals. Greer raised the ongoing drafting of the plurilateral critical minerals agreement, which he asserted would be shared with Congress before it is circulated with trading partners.
- Greer emphasized that tariffs on China were levied in response to fentanyl outflows; he shared that meetings with China are also staffed by National Security Council members.
- Rep. **Mark Alford** (R-MO-04) asked how USTR is using its trade tools to reduce dependency on China and strengthen domestic production. Greer attested to the President's tariff regime.

Tariffs & USMCA

- Meng stated that tariff exclusions have been made via executive order without due process and asked if there was ever a related public process or comment period. Greer shared that tariff coverage, such as the reciprocal tariff regime, had been adjusted in accordance with economic analysis for items that cannot be grown or extracted domestically or are covered by other tariff programs. Greer emphasized that there have been hundreds to thousands of stakeholder meetings and noted that the recent tranche of Section 301 investigations' comment period just closed yesterday. He encouraged engagement via comment.
- Strong asked how USTR is working to provide trade clarity. Greer replied that the President has said that if you "build in America, source from America, then you don't pay a tariff in America," and touted the value of domestic markets.
- Full Committee Ranking Member **Rosa Delauro** (D-CT-03) noted that tariffs and the war in Iran have driven up prices. She noted that U.S. manufacturing has lost an average of 100 jobs per day over the past year and expressed concern that USMCA has increased offshoring to Mexico, stressing the need for renegotiation. She asked what issues are being prioritized.

- Greer shared that he's meeting with his Mexican counterpart next week in Mexico and will be focusing on rules of origin to crack down on transshipment.
- Alford asked how the American economy has improved due to the tariff regime. Greer replied that manufacturing wages have increased.
- Rep. **Glenn Ivey** (D-MD-04) raised IEEPA tariff refunds, asking how the average consumer and small businesses will be compensated for paying higher prices. Greer attested to the value of tariffs and noted that the Democratic Attorneys General filed for the refunds to go to the companies. Ivey acknowledged but noted that this does not inhibit the administration from finding a solution here.
 - Rep. **Madeleine Dean** (D-PA-04) asked Greer if he would commit to an auto-refund policy, rather than the current system that requires filing through Customs and Border Patrol (CBP). Greer refused as he does not represent CBP.
- Rep. **Madeleine Dean** (D-PA-04) thanked the President for ending the de minimis loophole.
- Clyde asked Greer if he has witnessed reshoring of manufacturing as a response to the current tariff regime. Greer attested to his recent manufacturing site tour, touting added jobs and facility investments.
- Rep. **Frank Mrvan** (D-IN-01) acknowledged the benefits of Section 232 steel tariffs. Turning to USMCA, Mrvan noted the value of rules of origin for steel and asked how Greer is working with Canada and Mexico to curb the transshipment of heavily subsidized steel from countries like China.
 - Greer replied that there cannot be free trade on steel if Canada and Mexico are not controlling their borders. He stressed that the "gold standard" for steel is requiring melt and pour within these countries.
- Rep. **Riley Moore** (R-WV-02) attested to the value of manufacturing jobs, prompting Greer to reiterate that tariffs are protecting domestic manufacturing, while opening markets overseas. Moore then had Greer elaborate on the national security imperative to manufacture domestically.

Digital Trade

- Rep. **Ben Cline** (R-VA-06) reported that South Korea's digital trade policies could cost the U.S. economy \$525 billion over the next decade. He asked how USTR is holding South Korea accountable and at what point "defiance" triggers a U.S. trade action.
 - Greer replied that a Section 301 investigation could be levied. He emphasized that if the laws are applied in a discriminatory way, the U.S. would respond accordingly.
 - Cline turned to the E.U. and asked how USTR is protecting American companies from digital service regulatory overreach. Greer replied that there is an office dedicated to services investment and that the team is analyzing discriminatory actions. He reiterated that Section 301 is a potential tool, but is staff and resource intensive.