

The pros and cons of a 'Buy American' push

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"Buy American" is not a new idea, but with a president that wants to "make America great again," we can expect to hear more about the effort.

Scott Paul, president of the Alliance for American Manufacturing, says "buy American" makes sense from a national security perspective.

"And second," he says, "when we're building things in this country with tax dollars, I think it makes sense to give American workers and businesses the first shot at it," says Paul.

Daniel J. Ikenson of the Cato Institute says "buy American" sounds patriotic but in reality you are limiting the choices of purchasers.

"When you eliminate competition," he argues, "the taxpayer dollars in most cases don't go very far because domestic sources can recognize they don't have competition and they raise the prices."

Tori Whiting of The Heritage Foundation also sees negatives in "buy American" policies.

"These laws have been on the rise but it's not affecting employment," Whiting tells OneNewsNow.

The issue of trade and "buy American" comes at the same time Trump met with China's president this week. The topic of trade, and in particular China's trade deficit with the U.S., was discussed, CNBC reported.

Trump ripped China and trade on the campaign trail, a topic that was especially popular among blue collar workers, and his discussion with President Xi Jinping was "very frank and candid," CNBC reported.

The trade deficit with China totalled \$336 billion in 2015 according to the U.S. government.

New York's governor and members of the legislature were pushing a Buy American Act, saying it would be good for New York's economy and industries. Whiting, however, saw more regulatory burdens on producers and higher costs for taxpayers.

In 2016, an Associated Press-GFK poll found that Americans prefer low prices to items "Made in the USA."