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RESOLUTION NO. _____ - 2025

DECLARING the City of Cincinnati's opposition to 2025 federal tariffs that increase the cost of housing construction and **EXPRESSING** the need for federal action to reduce barriers to housing affordability.

WHEREAS, the City of Cincinnati is experiencing a critical housing shortage, with rising demand for both affordable and market-rate units needed to support population growth, economic development, and neighborhood revitalization; and

WHEREAS, the construction of new housing units requires a wide range of building materials including lumber, steel, gypsum, appliances, windows, cabinets, and other essential inputs, many of which are subject to international trade tariffs; and

WHEREAS, in 2025, the federal government implemented a new series of tariffs affecting major construction materials and components, including increased tariffs on lumber, steel, drywall, cabinetry, and other key products used in residential construction; and

WHEREAS, independent economic analysis from the National Association of Home Builders finds that the 2025 tariffs are adding an average of \$10,900 to the cost of constructing a new single-family home, functioning as a direct cost increase passed on to builders, homeowners, and renters; and

WHEREAS, the Tax Policy Center and Brookings Institution estimate that the 2025 tariffs will add approximately \$30,000,000,000 nationally to the cost of constructing residential structures, with more than ninety percent of the costs falling directly on new housing production rather than renovations; and

WHEREAS, increased construction costs reduce the number of housing units built, slow down affordable housing creation, push prices upward for families and seniors, and impede the City's efforts to expand housing supply and stabilize rents; and

WHEREAS, the City is committed to expanding affordable housing, encouraging infill development, and supporting new construction across neighborhoods through tools such as the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, tax increment financing-supported development, property tax incentives, mixed-income incentives, and zoning reform; and

WHEREAS, federal policy that unnecessarily increases the price of housing construction directly undermines these local efforts and exacerbates housing unaffordability for residents, first-time homebuyers, and working families; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Cincinnati, State of Ohio:

Section 1. That this Council expresses its opposition to the 2025 federal tariffs on building materials due to their documented impact in increasing the cost of constructing new homes by an average of \$10,900 per unit, thereby worsening the housing shortage and affordability crisis.

Section 2. That this Council urges the President of the United States, the United States Trade Representatives (“USTR”), and Congress to reconsider and rescind the 2025 tariffs on construction-related materials, or otherwise provide relief, exemptions, or adjustments to mitigate the rising costs borne by American homebuilders and families.

Section 3. That this Council reaffirms its commitment to advancing policies that increase housing affordability, reduce barriers to development, and expand the supply of quality homes for Cincinnati residents.

Section 4. That this resolution be spread upon the minutes of Council and that a copy be provided to the President of the United States, the USTR, the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate, and the members of Ohio’s congressional delegation, with a request for a swift federal action on this matter.

Passed: _____, 2025

Aftab Pureval, Mayor

Attest: _____
Clerk

Submitted by Vice Mayor Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney, President Pro Tem Victoria Parks, and Councilmembers Anna Albi, Jeff Cramerding, Mark Jefferys, Scotty Johnson, Evan Nolan, Meeka Owens, and Seth Walsh