

## EXPANDING BUY AMERICA IN GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT

Buy America laws ensure tax dollars are used to purchase U.S.-made products in the government procurement process. President Trump campaigned on the promise to use more American-sourced material in large government sponsored projects by pledging to “buy American and hire American.” NCTO believes reasonable Buy America laws strengthen the domestic manufacturing base, create good paying jobs, and provide value and high-quality products to the American taxpayer.

### National Infrastructure

President Trump has repeatedly stated his intention to undertake a comprehensive infrastructure investment plan focused on improving the nation’s highways, bridges, ports, airports, and other aspects of U.S. infrastructure that facilitate transportation and commerce. Reasonable Buy America requirements should be considered in any infrastructure legislation reviewed by Congress to ensure that the sources used for improving and rebuilding our infrastructure are American-made, wherever possible.

At the same time, Congress should work to minimize policies and practices that circumvent current Buy America laws, including significant loopholes — through initiatives like the World Trade Organization’s Agreement on Government Procurement, and Least Developed Country status — that enable over 100 countries to access our government procurement market in direct competition with U.S.-made products supplied by American workers.

### DHS and Other Agencies

Beyond the Department of Defense, there are other federal agencies that have an active Buy America program. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has a Buy America arrangement known as the Kissell Amendment, which requires textile and apparel items purchased by DHS to be made primarily in the U.S. from domestic materials.

Currently, the Kissell Amendment applies to uniforms procured by the Coast Guard and the Transportation Security Administration. However, the Kissell Amendment could be expanded to cover other agencies within DHS, like Customs and Border Patrol.

Kissell-type requirements could also be expanded to other cabinet agencies such as the Departments of State and Transportation.

### NCTO Position

NCTO supports reasonable Buy America rules as part of any new national infrastructure projects to take advantage of quality American-made products wherever possible. Congress should also strengthen current programs and expand Buy America procurement rules to other federal agencies.