

June 12, 2025

Dear Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart,

My name is David Barnes and I am co-owner of LeBlond Ltd located in Amelia, Ohio.

This past weekend, President Donald J. Trump announced his Administration's intention to halt Research Grants of \$3 billion and redirect them to trade schools and other institutions who support the growth of domestically located manufacturing institutions that will result in the onshoring of millions of new manufacturing companies and jobs supporting industry growth in the United States of America.

Our machinery supply chain is complex and spans the globe. What is simple, though, is our strong conviction in bringing the machine tool industry back to the U.S.A.!

A large segment of machine tool sales is made to colleges and trade schools located in the United States. Most of these entities are tax-exempt organizations. We believe Institutions whose primary purpose and mission is to support the growth of U.S. manufacturing and U.S. jobs should be exempt from tariffs that impede the rate of reindustrialization in the U.S.A. and increase the costs of industry growth. As Ronald Reagan once said, "If you want less of something, 'tax it,'" and tariffs, in this case, are a form of taxation.

We invite you to join us in supporting President Trump's initiative to return the United States of America as a world-leading manufacturing center of excellence.

We intend to encourage our customers and suppliers to write to their U.S. Congressional representatives, trade associations and Chambers of Commerce, asking them to support legislation exempting educational institutions from the application and payment of tariffs. We are asking you to conduct a similar program with your business associations and congressional representatives.

Sincerely,

David Barnes