

May 22, 2026

The Honorable Jason Smith  
Chairman  
House Committee on Ways and Means  
1139 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Richard E. Neal  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Ways and Means  
1129 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Neal,

We write urging the Committee to report H.R. 8025, the Protecting American Streaming and Innovation Act, in the face of aggressive and discriminatory action by Canadian regulators targeting American streaming services.

Free and fair trade with Canada is a vital component of America's economy. 30% of US trade today is with Canada and Mexico and Canada was the world's second largest buyer of American goods in 2025.<sup>1</sup> Trade in fast-growing digital services is especially important to both nations — as reflected in the USMCA's strong digital chapter barring discriminatory, protectionist regulations and taxes in this area.

But new regulations announced yesterday under Canada's "controversial"<sup>2</sup> Online Streaming Act breach these core principles and threaten to slam the door on digital trade growth between the US and Canada and drive up prices for subscribers in both countries. These discriminatory rules would micromanage streaming products in violation of the most basic principles of marketplace competition and free trade, forcing American services to fund their Canadian competitors and artificially promote Canadian programming regardless of user preference or demand. In the United States (which has never pursued such content mandates), this would raise serious constitutional free speech concerns.

The result would be lost jobs in both America and Canada, as OSA taxes artificially spike overall production costs by pouring government funds into otherwise unsustainable Canadian projects. Consumers in both countries and around the world would pay millions more to cover the costs of parochial Canadian taxation, which could reach \$7 billion over the next five years.<sup>3</sup> All while setting a dangerous precedent for other countries to target American services, launching a race to the bottom that could hamstring one of America's great export industries. It's a deeply counterproductive approach to trade which observers rightly warn "could pour fuel on an already heated fire."

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<sup>1</sup> [Testimony of Ed Gresser, PPI, Dec. 3, 2025.](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Politico Playbook Canada, May 21, 2026.](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Canada's Requirement to Force U.S. Companies to Fund Local Music and Video Content Could Cost the U.S. Industry \\$7 Billion by 2030, September 2025.](#)

What's more, the premise of Canada's OSA (and similar proposals around the world) is utterly flawed. These taxes on American streaming services are justified as necessary to ensure local programming — and the production jobs and economic gains that go with it — aren't crowded out by American films and shows. But streaming services, whether American or not, drive more distribution and funding for global programming than we have ever seen before. For instance, a 2024 Ampere Analytics report<sup>4</sup> found that in English speaking markets “viewing of international (non-English language) TV shows and movies has increased by 24 percent” since Q1 2020 — a trend that has no doubt continued. Streaming investment in overseas production paints no less impressive a picture. The recently launched website “The Netflix Effect”<sup>5</sup> finds the company has powered a staggering \$325 billion in global economic activity. Drilling down, just one hit show of many — in this case the French hit “Lupin” — contributed over 90 million euros to the French economy while employing 600 local vendors to support the shoot.

Congress and the Administration must respond forcefully to this attack on free, fair, and non-discriminatory digital trade. Rep. Smucker's Protecting American Streaming and Innovation Act charts a smart and effective path, engaging Congress in support of a US “Section 301” investigation of the OSA regulations. Strong, united, coordinated, bipartisan action by the two political branches would put Canada and our trading partners around the world on notice that we expect trade agreements to be followed and will not tolerate discriminatory policies that single out American firms for unfair and burdensome regulation.

This is a challenging time in US-Canada trade relations, but Canada's decision to double down on conflict and parochial regulation that is clearly in conflict with USMCA rules takes us in exactly the wrong direction. Just as we oppose counterproductive tariffs that undermine the strong trading bond between America and Canada, we equally oppose this costly, discriminatory OSA overreach.

Thank you for considering our views and standing up for free and fair global trade that builds bridges between nations, strengthens local economies, supports American Jobs, and keeps prices low for American consumers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L.M. Lewis', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lindsay Mark Lewis, CEO

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<sup>4</sup> [Viewing of foreign content up 24% in English markets. July 29, 2024.](#)

<sup>5</sup> [The Netflix Effect \(Spring 2026\).](#)