

“Arkansas Pays the Price for Tariffs (Tax Increase),” by Dr. Chris Jones

Arkansas’s Congressional delegation keeps backing policies that hurt the very people they claim to represent.

The numbers don’t lie. Since 2000, Arkansas has lost over **78,000 manufacturing jobs**, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Now, Donald Trump’s tariff threats are making things worse. Most people did not sign up for these tax increases and the chaos and uncertainty that they bring. Unfortunately, none of us are being served well Congressional members who won’t stand up and fight for us.

In fact, these tariffs (tax increases) seem to be supported by every one of our Congressional team.

Tariffs may sound tough, but they’re bad business. CEOs from American Airlines, PepsiCo, and Procter & Gamble recently told *The Wall Street Journal* that tariffs make planning impossible and rattle consumers.

That ripple hits workers, small towns, and rural places across Arkansas. When businesses can't plan, jobs vanish.

Meanwhile, consumers—many right here in Arkansas—feel it too. Researcher Ed Yardeni told *The Street* that people are spending in fear, trying to get ahead of price hikes.

That’s not economic strength—it’s anxiety.

And small farmers? They were hammered by Trump’s first round of tariffs. Between 2018 and 2019, the USDA says U.S. farmers lost **\$27 billion** in exports. Bankruptcies soared. Yet

Arkansas's Congressional delegation backed Trump's bailout that favored corporate Ag giants over local family farms.

It's a second Trump term and – just like Project 2025 outlined -- the tariffs are coming back. *Forbes* reports that even the conservative American Enterprise Institute now warns tariffs are a major threat to U.S. farmers.

Our state is struggling under this latest round of bad economic policy dressed up as political posturing.

Here's what you can do: Contact your member of Congress. Ask where they stand on Trump's new tariffs. Tell them what's at stake for your job, your farm, your family. Then remember this when you vote in 2026.

Arkansas deserves better than ribbon cuttings and talking points. We need real leadership—and we need it now.

Share your thoughts and comments at chrisjoneslistens@gmail.com.