

Chairman Moolenaar on NewsNation

11.18.2024

NewsNation: Congressman John Moolenaar is the chairman of the House Select China committee. Republican from the state of Michigan, joins us live here on the hill. Congressman, thanks for being with us tonight.

John Moolenaar: Appreciate the time, sir.

NewsNation: Explain to me what exactly you're trying to do and what does it mean.

John Moolenaar: Well, our plan is to revoke the permanent normal trade relationship status of China. Since China entered this agreement with the United States and the world, they've cheated on every aspect. They've stolen intellectual property, they've committed all sorts of violations, dumping over capacity, and they simply are not a favored trading partner, and we shouldn't give them that privileged position. We are also recommending tariffs, especially on some of the sensitive technologies and sectors, and we need to make this trading relationship fair. And I believe President Trump is stepping up and doing that.

NewsNation: So you know how Donald Trump works. You remember the first quote, unquote trade war back in 2018, 2019, 2020. Everything is a negotiation with Donald Trump, or at least at the beginning. Do you know if he embraces your idea? Because if so, that would, that would be a pretty big step forward to start off a negotiation.

John Moolenaar: Well, I can tell you that conceptually, he wants to be tough with China and make sure this relationship is put in the right direction. We need to reset. And he's talked about how tariffs is an important, vital component of strategic technologies that we need to make sure we protect. So I'm not here to say he's endorsing it, but it certainly is in line with his thinking, and I look forward to working with him and his administration to implement this.

NewsNation: Speaking of tariffs, here was the then candidate Trump on Joe Rogan's podcast in the final days of the campaign. I'll get your reaction. That was the wrong sound bite, Congressman. What I was trying to play for you there was the question from Joe Rogan when he asked about the idea of getting rid of taxes for tariffs completely, sort of like a one to one swap. Do you think Trump is serious about that. Do you believe that his treasury secretary is going to fall in line with him on his views on tariffs?

John Moolenaar: I believe his Treasury Secretary will implement the Trump policy, and I believe the Trump policy is going to be to have a strong negotiating position with respect to China.

NewsNation: But I wonder if tariff, I wonder if his policy on tariffs is why he's having a little bit of trouble trying to find a treasury secretary.

John Moolenaar: I don't believe that. I think he's just trying to select the right person for the job, and there are a number of qualified candidates, and he's going to pick the best one that fits his agenda and can implement it.

NewsNation: Working with Congress, we had one of China's, one of the United States' top trade negotiators in the first go around, Clete Willems here on the show a couple weeks ago, when I asked him what, essentially, Donald Trump and his team learned from China in the first go around. Here's what Clete told me, and I want to get your reaction on the other side.

Clete Willems: They learned that he's serious. Okay, right? They learned that when he makes these kinds of threats about broad scale tariff action, he may just well pull that trigger. And so I think China has to take him seriously again, and is going to have to engage.

NewsNation: We're also seeing stories congressman about Nerf guns, possibly in Hasbro, maybe reducing its footprint in China. Steve Madden has already reduced its footprint in China. Is that what you think we see here, as companies start to look across, see the landscape, see what Donald Trump and his team are talking about.

John Moolenaar: Yeah, my hope is that we'd have more supply chains, more manufacturing, more job creation here in the United States lessen our dependence on the Chinese Communist Party. And I think that's what his policies will encourage.

NewsNation: All right, leave it there. Congressman John Moolenaar. he is the top Republican on the China Select Committee in the House. Live with us here on the hill.

John Moolenaar: Thank you, sir. Appreciate it.