# Biden's New Tariffs on China: Economic Impact and Debates



### Biden's New Tariffs on China Spark Economic Debate

**Washington, May 14, 2024** — U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai made headlines this week after downplaying the potential impact of new tariffs on Chinese imports announced by President Joe Biden. Speaking at a press briefing at the White House, Tai asserted that the link between tariffs and consumer price hikes had been "largely debunked."

However, her statements met skepticism from economists and some within the Biden administration. Research from the US International Trade Commission and economic analyses by Goldman Sachs indicate that previous tariffs, such as those implemented by former President Donald Trump, did indeed raise costs for American consumers and businesses.

In response, a spokesperson for the USTR clarified that Tai intended to argue that tariffs did not cause the inflation experienced during or after the Covid-19 pandemic. The new tariffs, which include a 100% tariff on electric vehicles and varying rates on other goods, target $18 billion in Chinese imports, focusing on sectors like steel, aluminum, and clean tech.

While Biden's administration aims to shield domestic industries from Chinese competition, the persistence of Trump-era tariffs on $300 billion worth of goods continues to affect American households financially. Economists warn that these measures could exacerbate inflation and disrupt supply chains.

Critics from both political parties, including Colorado Governor Jared Polis, have expressed concern over the impact of these tariffs on American families and clean energy initiatives. Policymakers remain divided on the best approach to tackling China's trade practices without harming U.S. consumers.

As the 2024 presidential race heats up, tariffs have emerged as a key issue, with both Biden and Trump emphasizing their tough stance on trade with China. Despite differing approaches, the tariffs reflect a broader bipartisan shift towards protectionism in U.S. trade policy.