

As President Trump's New 25% Tariffs on Imports Took Effect, The Leader of Canada's Most Populous Province, Ontario, Issued a Stark Warning: *"He is prepared to cut off energy exports to the United States "with a smile on my face" in retaliation".*



Ontario Premier Doug Ford made the bold declaration on Monday, just hours before the tariffs were implemented at 12:01 a.m. Tuesday. "If they want to try to annihilate Ontario, I will do everything — including cut off their energy with a smile on my face," Ford stated, according to the Toronto Sun.

"They rely on our energy, they need to feel the pain," he added. "They want to come at us hard, we're going to come back twice as hard."

The United States is a significant consumer of Canadian electricity, with Ontario alone powering 1.5 million American homes in 2023. The province is a major exporter of electricity to New York, Michigan, Minnesota, and other border states.

While it remains unclear whether Ford's threat applies to all Canadian provinces or solely to Ontario, he reiterated his commitment to matching Trump's 25% tariffs on imports from Canada, Mexico, and China.

I [didn't] start this tariff war, but we're going to win this tariff war," Ford declared. He emphasized that while provincial governments have a role to play, the federal government is leading the charge, and Ontario will stand united with Ottawa regardless of who is in power.

In response to Ford's remarks, New York Governor Kathy Hochul expressed skepticism that the Ontario leader would follow through, citing their positive relationship. "I'd be happy to have additional conversations with him on how we can support each other during this crisis," Hochul said. "I feel positive that anything within his power that he can control – that we do not have a target on our backs."

Meanwhile, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau swiftly announced retaliatory measures, imposing 25% tariffs on C 30billion(US20.7 billion) worth of U.S. imports. The targeted products include orange juice, peanut butter, wine, spirits, beer, coffee, appliances, apparel, footwear, motorcycles, cosmetics, and pulp and paper.

Trudeau also warned that Canada would impose tariffs on an additional C\$125 billion of U.S. imports if Trump's tariffs remain in place after 21 days. On Tuesday, the prime minister accused Trump of instigating a trade war and vowed that Canada "will not back down."

The escalating trade tensions between the two nations have raised concerns about the potential economic impact on both sides of the border, with consumers likely to face higher prices on a range of goods. As the dispute intensifies, the threat of Ontario cutting off electricity exports adds a new layer of complexity to an already volatile situation.