

Greater Opportunity Cost

What the protectionist is really saying, though he is usually too ignorant of economics to know what he's really saying:

I want the government to use its coercive force to ensure that goods X, Y, and Z are available to domestic purchasers only at greater opportunity cost (i.e., greater sacrifice of valuable goods and services) than would have to be born if those goods were purchased from foreign sellers offering better terms of sale.