

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 8, 2025

Secretary Howard Lutnick
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Lutnick,

At a time when our nation is experiencing an unprecedented affordability crisis, President Trump's decision to impose sweeping tariffs on goods from virtually every country in the world will send a chill through small businesses across the country. Most small businesses operate on razor thin margins, so any increase in costs could be devastating for both day-to-day operations and business' long-term success. Now is the time to invest in our small businesses to ensure they have the resources necessary to navigate today's high cost environment. Across-the-board tariffs will have the opposite effect, squeezing small firms that lack the capital and resources to mitigate the worst effects of President Trump's new trade barriers. Given this, we urge you to work with the President to immediately reverse course on these broad-based tariffs to end the needless suffering this administration has imposed on small businesses across the country.

Small businesses are the lifeblood of our communities - they create employment opportunities, provide unique goods and services, and bolster local economies. With small businesses already being crushed under the weight of high costs and interest rates, we must do all we can to cut red tape and help them thrive – not create additional affordability challenges and uncertainty. The President's reckless across-the-board tariffs are putting small businesses in an impossible position. Business owners are forced to decide between absorbing the costs while risking staff layoffs and potential closure, or passing the increased costs along to their customers with whom they have built a relationship and who are already facing high prices due to inflation. Simply put, President Trump's blanket tariffs will have catastrophic impacts on American small businesses and consumers alike.

Strategic, targeted tariffs have long been a key instrument to advance our nation's trade interests, but President Trump's 10 percent tariff on all trading partners and double-digit tariffs on dozens of other countries will upend the global trade system that small businesses rely on to bring their goods to market. In today's globalized economy, disruptions in one part of the supply chain can have cascading effects, impacting small businesses across all regions and sectors. Moreover, retaliatory tariffs will only compound this dire economic situation, hurting our export-oriented small businesses that have long-standing trade relations with countries around the globe. Some of these relationships may never recover from President Trump's senseless trade war.

From hospitality to retail to manufacturing, President Trump's sweeping tariffs have the potential to upend decades of economic interdependence that allowed our nation's small businesses to thrive. They must be reconsidered. To that end, we respectfully ask that you work with the President to reverse course on the 10 percent tariffs on all countries, as well as the exorbitantly high reciprocal tariffs placed on others. Failure to do so will raise costs, rob our

small businesses of the certainty they rely on and undermine the economic security of small businesses across the country.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Peter Welch
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Andy Kim
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator