

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 25, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear President Trump:

I write with deep concern regarding your administration's lack of action to provide relief to American families in the wake of the Supreme Court striking down your administration's reckless use of International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA)-based tariffs. Absent action from this administration, over \$100 billion in tariff revenue collected under those unlawful tariffs will not make it into the hands of American families and small businesses, but instead will remain either in government coffers or in corporate accounts.

Since your first invocation of IEEPA to impose sweeping tariffs on countries, Americans have borne the brunt of higher prices. The chaotic and expansive nature of the IEEPA tariffs, often used to dole out punishments and rewards unrelated to rectifying unfair trade practices, also created conditions for large companies with market power to raise prices above the increased input costs.<sup>1</sup> And of course, at the same time, small businesses operating on thin margins often had no choice but to pass on costs to consumers just to stay afloat.

Unfortunately, your administration appears unconcerned with ensuring Americans and small businesses are made whole from your illegal use of tariffs. In a press conference immediately after the Supreme Court announcement, you failed to answer questions about tariff refunds or outline a plan, saying that it "will get litigated for the next two years."<sup>2</sup> Ambassador Greer also punted action, noting that he is waiting for additional direction.<sup>3</sup> This absence of leadership raises concerns about whether restitution will be timely, transparent, or equitable.

Equally troubling is the risk that large corporations, with better access to high-priced lawyers and lobbyists, will be best positioned to pursue refunds, while small businesses and consumers lack these resources. Without your administration providing a structured process to determine refunds should be distributed, American families and small businesses will once again be left behind. Additionally, the continued neglect of your Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to investigate tariff-enabled corporate price gouging compounds the risk of consumer harm in this chaotic moment.

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<sup>1</sup> "Gallego, Colleagues Push to Prevent Corporations from Using Trump's Chaotic Tariffs as Cover to Price Gouge Americans," Senator Ruben Gallego, July 11, 2025. <https://www.gallego.senate.gov/news/press-releases/gallego-colleagues-push-to-prevent-corporations-from-using-trumps-chaotic-tariffs-as-cover-to-price-gouge-americans/>

<sup>2</sup> "Press Conference: Donald Trump Addresses the Supreme Court Tariff Decision - February 20, 2026," Roll Call, February 20, 2026. <https://rollcall.com/factbase/trump/transcript/donald-trump-press-conference-supreme-court-tariffs-february-20-2026/>

<sup>3</sup> Ashleigh Fields, "Greer on tariff refunds: 'We need the court to tell us what to do,'" The Hill, February 22, 2026. <https://thehill.com/regulation/court-battles/5749779-greer-court-guidance-tariffs/>

The invalidation of these IEEPA tariffs is a chance to make American families and small businesses whole – not to retain unlawfully collected funds or enable additional corporate profit. As such, I request answers to the following questions:

1. Does your administration intend to refund these illegal tariffs collected under IEEPA-based authorities?
  - a. If so, please describe the administrative mechanism that will govern this process.
  - b. If so, who will be eligible to receive refunds?
    - i. Will eligibility be limited to importers of record?
    - ii. If so, what steps will be taken to ensure refunds go to small businesses and consumers who needed to pay higher prices?
2. What is the total amount of revenue the federal government collected from these tariffs as of February 20, 2026?
3. Will the administration issue guidance or establish standards requiring corporations to disclose the extent to which tariff costs were passed on to consumers or small businesses?
4. Knowing that many corporations may seek refunds and will necessarily have an easier time negotiating a settlement compared to small businesses, will your administration provide guidance for small businesses?
5. What safeguards will be implemented to prevent windfall refunds to corporations that have already recouped tariff-related costs through price increases?
6. Will you commit to ensuring that your FTC uses all authorities at its disposal to hold large corporations accountable that raised their prices but will not return refunds to consumers after receiving them?
7. Does the FTC have a plan to ensure large corporations do not take advantage of your trade chaos to raise prices on goods or services not exposed to tariffs?

Please provide responses no later than March 4, 2026. The American people deserve clarity on whether and how they will be made whole following the unlawful imposition of these tariffs.

Sincerely,



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Ruben Gallego

United States Senator