

April 1, 2025

To: The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives

To: The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate

To: The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

To: The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate

cc: The Honorable Scott Bessent, United States Secretary of the Treasury
cc: The Honorable Howard Lutnick, United States Secretary of Commerce
cc: The Honorable Jamieson Greer, United States Trade Representative

Subject: Impact of Tariffs on American Producers and Families

The undersigned individuals write in support of policy proposals that will strengthen the American economy, especially initiatives like the extension of President Donald Trump's Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, his efforts to defeat the [cost-of-living crisis](#), and his work [unleashing](#) affordable and reliable energy and natural resources.

We encourage you to consider whether tariffs may, in many cases, undermine President Trump's broader long-term economic goals by increasing the cost of goods subject to tariffs. We are especially concerned about tariffs on inputs needed by U.S. manufacturers that make it harder to compete with finished goods made abroad and tariffs that increase the price of necessities like food and housing.

To name just a few examples:

- **Tariffs on steel** (especially specialty products like tinplate steel) would increase the cost of canned foods, tariffs on aluminum would increase the cost of canned beverages, and tariffs on fresh fruit and vegetables would drive up grocery prices. Ultimately, increased costs resulting from tariffs are passed along to consumers. We shouldn't replace falling egg prices with higher prices for other groceries affected by tariffs.
- **Tariffs on lumber** would harm construction workers and increase home prices.
- **Tariffs on energy** would increase prices for businesses that transport goods across the United States.
- **Tariffs on pharmaceutical goods and medical supplies** would increase the cost of healthcare.
- **Tariffs on automobiles and parts** would increase the cost of cars and trucks.

We agree with Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent that the United States does not have a revenue problem. We have a spending problem. Therefore, the best way to address federal deficits is by controlling spending, not by increasing tariffs or other taxes. Furthermore, increasing tariffs to offset tax cuts, resulting in no net benefit to taxpayers, is a policy that should be avoided.

We strongly support efforts that focus on spurring economic growth. We would hate to see President Trump's efforts to cut taxes and slash regulations undermined by the imposition of costly tariffs. There are many trade policies the Trump Administration can pursue instead of tariffs to reduce the threat of rising prices that are costly for American families. We urge you to bear these policies in mind as you continue working to ease rising costs for consumers. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



NATIONAL TAXPAYERS UNION

Pete Sepp
President
National Taxpayers Union



The American Consumer Institute
Center for Citizen Research

Tirzah Duren
President
American Consumer Institute



CENTER FOR A FREE ECONOMY

Ryan Ellis
President
Center for a Free Economy



Tom Giovanetti
President
Institute for Policy Innovation



Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council

Karen Kerrigan
President & CEO
Small Business &
Entrepreneurship Council



David Williams
President
Taxpayers Protection Alliance



Mario Lopez
President
Hispanic Leadership Fund



Iain Murray
Vice President
Competitive Enterprise Institute



Daniel Mitchell
President
Center for Freedom & Prosperity



Joel Griffith
Senior Fellow
Advancing American Freedom



Phil Kerpen
President
American Commitment



Kent Kaiser, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Trade Alliance to Promote Prosperity



Tony Zagotta
President
Center for American Principles