

DEFEND AMERICA *ACTION*

Dear President Donald Trump:

As state legislators, we see the cost of your trade war up close — in the grocery bills, contractor invoices, car payments and the literal clothes on the backs of the people we represent.

You promised tariffs would make America richer. Instead, your chaotic, on-again, off-again approach to trade policy has changed more than 50 times since you took office, and the latest casualty is our trading relationship with Canada, our second-largest export market and, for many of our states, an economic lifeline. When your nearly finished deal with Canada fell apart, you responded by imposing new tariffs on Canadian goods under a tariff law no president has ever invoked before. Two days later, you threatened even more tariffs on cars, trucks, and auto parts. Canada answered with its own counter-tariffs on hundreds of American products.

America wasn't attacked or provoked. You picked this fight, you escalated it, and working families will pay the price.

Of course, this isn't just about the latest trade war with our northern neighbor. It's about 18 months of tariff policies that have devastated the entire country — fueling high inflation and a generational affordability crisis, and devastating farmers and agribusiness in the process. And the most glaring example of this policy's failure is the fact that the Supreme Court said your tariffs were illegal and must be refunded. American consumers paid the tariffs, and yet, months later, they haven't seen a dime.

American importers and consumers absorb 96 percent of the cost of your tariffs. That means the price of furniture, building materials, clothing, and household goods rises this fall, and the price of cars rises next year. Even before your latest escalation, by the end of 2026, American households were predicted to have paid an average of over \$2,500 more throughout your second term because of your tariffs. Inflation is already outpacing wage growth, and analysts warn this trade war will only add more price pressure to working families that can't afford it.

While you fight a trade war of your own making, you have offered no serious plan to bring down costs for the Americans stuck paying for it. Instead, the same administration picking fights with our closest trading partner is consumed with revenge and retribution while the affordability crisis you created keeps getting worse.

It's time to end this tariff obsession. It has achieved nothing, only harming our economy, our workers, and our businesses. This approach has failed — miserably — and you need to move on, not double down.

Our states, and this country, cannot afford another year of manufactured trade wars. It's time to put working families ahead of your personal, petty grievances and governing by vibes. End these trade wars. Now.

Signed,

DEFEND AMERICA *ACTION*

Sen. Joe Baldacci, Maine

Rep. Gary Friedmann, Maine

Rep. Marc Malon, Maine

Rep. Gerry Runte, Maine

Rep. Holly Sargent, Maine

Rep. Rita Harris, Florida

Rep. Ann Gay Donworth, Kentucky

Del. Ashanti Martinez, Maryland

Rep. Noah Arbit, Michigan

Rep. John Cloutier, New Hampshire

Asm. Steven Raga, New York

Sen. Ryan Braunberger, North Dakota

Sen. Tim Mathern, North Dakota

Rep. Beryl Brown Piccolantonio, Ohio

Rep. Tina Davis, Pennsylvania

Rep. Arvind Venkat, Pennsylvania

Rep. Abigail Salisbury, Pennsylvania

Sen. Andrew Perchlik, Vermont