

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

January 31, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write to urge you not to place sweeping tariffs on imports, especially from our closest neighbors, Canada and Mexico, which will place a tax on Americans and dramatically increase costs for families and small businesses in New Hampshire.

Yesterday you stated you would place a 25 percent tariff on goods from Canada and Mexico this Saturday, February 1, and have previously threatened universal tariffs on all imports. During your campaign, you promised to “bring down the price of everything.” Despite that promise, sweeping tariffs would be a tax on Americans that raises the cost of everything from cars and gas to housing and groceries. Tariff costs would be passed on to our consumers and businesses through higher costs for goods and services. As the CEO of Best Buy said, “the vast majority of that tariff will probably be passed on to the consumer as a price increase.”¹ From the tariffs you proposed on Canada and Mexico alone, a middle-class household is likely to pay \$1,100 more per year.

Families will face higher prices at the pump and lose more of their hard-earned income to home heating bills during the coldest months of the year if you create a new energy tax in the form of tariffs on oil and petroleum products from Canada. According to groups including convenience stores, truck stops and heating fuel distributors, “levying tariffs on crude oil and other petroleum product imports would increase the cost of gasoline, diesel fuel, heating oil and propane for millions of American consumers,” and “impact the cost of goods and services across virtually all sectors of the economy.”²

For the more than 350,000 households in New Hampshire who rely on heating oil, propane and wood to keep their homes warm and comfortable, adding these costs would be particularly cruel

¹ <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/best-buy-ceo-on-potential-trump-tariffs-consumers-will-bear-the-brunt-204748293.html>

² Letter to Acting U.S. Trade Representative Juan Millan and Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent from the National Association of Convenience Stores, NATSO, Representing America’s Travel Centers and Truck Stops, SIGMA: America’s Leading Fuel Marketers, Energy Marketers of America (EMA), National Energy & Fuels Institute (NEFI) and National Propane Gas Association (NPGA). January 30, 2025.

in the middle of a winter that has seen recent temperatures reach 20 below zero. Home heating oil is New Hampshire's largest import from Canada, not because we don't produce enough in the United States, but because it makes logistical and economic sense. The National Energy & Fuels Institute (NEFI), which represents wholesale and retail liquid heating fuel distributors throughout the Northeast, estimates that tariffs could increase heating costs by at least \$375 per winter for a home in New Hampshire. Older, larger homes and those in the coldest parts of the state could see an added cost of at least \$625. This is unaffordable and unacceptable.

These taxes would raise families' grocery bills, too. The type of broad tariffs you've proposed could raise food costs by \$200 per year for the average household.³ That's because the U.S. imports 38 percent of our fresh vegetables, 60 percent of our fresh fruit, and more than 99 percent of our coffee. This is the last thing families need when they're already struggling with record high prices for eggs or coffee.

We also know that American small businesses would be hurt by these taxes. One New Hampshire small business owner was planning to invest in growing the business he inherited from his father. He reached out to share that these taxes on key equipment would add \$5,000 to the cost of each unit they sold, and now he isn't sure he can even afford to give raises to his workers.

Finally, it seems counterproductive to have your first targets for tariffs be Canada and Mexico. Not only are these America's two largest trading partners, but that success is in part due to your work in negotiating the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) to support free and fair trade in North America. That agreement has supported a 21 percent increase to U.S. exports to Mexico and an 18 percent increase in U.S. exports to Canada. Taxing all imports from our neighbors would undermine USMCA and weaken America's credibility in negotiating future trade agreements.

We urge you to focus on bringing down prices and reconsider the wisdom of placing sweeping tariffs on imports that would raise prices for our constituents.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress

³ <https://www.americanprogressaction.org/article/former-president-trump-proposes-an-up-to-3900-tax-increase-for-a-typical-family/>