

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 21, 2025

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

The Honorable Jamieson Greer
Ambassador
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Secretary Lutnick and Ambassador Greer,

I write on behalf of the small businesses in Minnesota's Third Congressional District to request relief from the Trump Administration's sweeping tariff policy. President Trump's decision to impose tariffs on imports from nearly every country – and 145% tariffs on many Chinese goods – poses an existential threat to American small businesses. Without prompt reprieve from these tariffs, small businesses in my community will be forced to raise prices, lay off staff, or close their doors entirely.

Compared to large corporations, small businesses generally operate on tighter margins and are more sensitive to sudden increases in operating costs. As uncertainty persists and consumer sentiment continues to decline due to the Administration's unnecessary trade war, small businesses need urgent relief. We have heard from local small business owners who fear that President Trump's careless tariff policy could put them out of business within months.

On April 11, the Trump Administration issued a temporary exemption for smart phones, computers, and other electronics, excluding them from the 125% "reciprocal tariffs" levied on Chinese imports. While we welcome the suspension of these tariffs to provide relief to American consumers, we remain concerned that the Administration is more attuned to the needs of large corporations than small businesses. Apple Inc. CEO Tim Cook, whose company will benefit significantly from the most recent wave of exemptions, has reportedly developed a personal relationship with President Trump and donated \$1 million to his Inaugural Committee.¹ Despite

¹ <https://www.wsj.com/tech/tim-cook-apple-profits-trump-tariffs-5babcead>

President Trump's insistence that no company will be getting "off the hook" from his sweeping tariffs, the reality is that the Administration has moved forward with a targeted exemption that will benefit large corporations like Apple, while small businesses are left to fend for themselves.

Small businesses often lack the negotiating power of technology giants like Apple, who retain government affairs professionals to help the company navigate sophisticated policy and regulatory landscapes. As the U.S. Representative of a district with a vibrant ecosystem of Minnesota small businesses, I write to you to advocate for their opposition to President Trump's ongoing trade war. If the Trump Administration is willing to be responsive to the concerns of large corporations, I implore you to be equally responsive to small enterprise and to issue an identical tariff exemption for American small businesses.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly Morrison". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature is a horizontal line.

Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress