

United States Senate

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April 7, 2025

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

The Honorable Jamieson Greer
United States Trade Representative
600 Seventeenth Street, NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Secretary Lutnick and Ambassador Greer:

I write to urge you to address the hardship that tariffs will impose on fire departments in the United States. I was recently contacted by K&T Fire Equipment in Island Falls, Maine, a family-owned business that manufactures and sells fire trucks for fire departments in Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont. The business begins assembly at its facility in Maine by attaching fire apparatuses to truck chasses before sending the trucks to a metal fabricator in Centerville, New Brunswick, Canada, to complete the steel and aluminum fabrication and assembly. The business has operated this way for more than three decades. K&T indicated to me that the proposed tariff on Canadian steel and aluminum would increase the cost of each truck by \$80,000-\$90,000.

It is impossible for fire departments in rural northern New England to afford to cover the added cost of tariffs, especially given that the cost of each truck has predetermined at a contracted price. At present, K&T Fire Equipment has contracts for trucks with eight fire departments, with one set to be delivered to the Allagash Fire Department in Allagash, Maine, later this month. K&T's other contracted departments in Maine include Lamoine, Newfield, Sullivan, Surry, and Somerville, as well as Waterford, Vermont, and Errol, New Hampshire.

To reduce hardships on fire departments and family-owned companies such as K&T Fire Equipment, I request that the Department of Commerce exempt items that were under contract before President Trump's announcement on February 10, 2025. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator