

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

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August 5, 2026

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue 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:

The tariffs on Canadian goods scheduled to take effect on August 19 under Section 338 of the Tariff Act of 1930 have created uncertainty and concern for many Maine businesses, municipalities, workers, and their families. Each year, Maine imports approximately \$2 billion in non-petroleum products from Canada, and these new tariffs alone could apply to 5.5 percent of those goods. I write to ask that you provide businesses with greater clarity and notice regarding tariffs and take into consideration the negative impact that tariffs are likely to have on Maine's economy in advance of any potential implementation.

The latest tariff list covers more than 500 specific categories of imports. The Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, which serves as the master list, contains more than 11,000 categories. With only a month of warning, businesses in Maine and across the United States are being asked to avoid Canadian imports or face tariffs of 50 percent on these specific products. Small businesses, which lack large legal departments, have shared with me how difficult it is to navigate this new list and determine the impact of these tariffs.

I recognize the need for strong domestic industries that bolster our supply chains. For Mainers, however, Canada is often the closest source of goods in those supply chains. Maine borders only one state, New Hampshire, but shares a 611-mile border with Canada. It has 24 land ports of entry. Since the tariffs were announced, I have heard from businesses in industries including paper and concrete that insufficient domestic supply will leave them no choice but to pay tariffs at a rate that could jeopardize the viability of their businesses and the good jobs they provide. In addition, Maine manufacturers are left wondering whether they will face retaliatory tariffs, which would disproportionately harm them because Canadians are among their most loyal customers.

For many Maine businesses, any announcement of new tariffs creates further uncertainty. These 50 percent tariffs were announced with little notice. During the peak summer season, Maine's forest products industry, agricultural sector, and construction companies need to focus on how they can best succeed, not on determining how new government tariffs will affect them. This

uncertainty runs counter to the regulatory relief the administration is pursuing across departments and agencies.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I hope you will consider the unique needs of Maine businesses and municipalities as you implement policies and negotiate agreements affecting American workers and companies.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator