

SUSAN M. COLLINS
MAINE

413 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904
(202) 224-2523
(202) 224-2693 (FAX)

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1904

COMMITTEES:
SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ON AGING,
CHAIRMAN
APPROPRIATIONS
HEALTH, EDUCATION,
LABOR, AND PENSIONS
SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

March 28, 2020

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin
Secretary of the Treasury
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I write today to lend my support to efforts within the Senate and U.S. business community that advocate for temporary duty deferrals to help companies during these unprecedented times.

In my state, I have heard directly from domestic manufacturers, retail and apparel companies and small businesses importing specialty products. I have raised many of these industries in previous correspondence to the Department of the Treasury and the Office of the United States Trade Representative and asked for the removal of tariffs. The economic impact of Section 301 tariffs on imports from China and imports from the European Union have been of particular concern for companies in Maine. The response to COVID-19 has now added another layer of pressure as businesses are facing severe cash flow problems.

Mainers are resilient and we will make it through this pandemic stronger than before; however, I also want to encourage the Administration to help lessen the burden when possible. I urge you to immediately issue a directive to U.S. Customs and Border Protection to defer all tariffs impacting these industries for at least 90 days, or until the crisis passes.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Should there be any questions, please contact me or have you staff contact [REDACTED].

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator

CC: Ambassador Robert Lighthizer, United States Trade Representative