

RICHARD C. SHELBY, ALABAMA, CHAIRMAN

MITCH McCONNELL, KENTUCKY
LAMAR ALEXANDER, TENNESSEE
SUSAN M. COLLINS, MAINE
LISA MURKOWSKI, ALASKA
LINDSEY GRAHAM, SOUTH CAROLINA
ROY BLUNT, MISSOURI
JERRY MORAN, KANSAS
JOHN HOEVEN, NORTH DAKOTA
JOHN BOOZMAN, ARKANSAS
SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, WEST VIRGINIA
JAMES LANKFORD, OKLAHOMA
STEVE DAINES, MONTANA
JOHN KENNEDY, LOUISIANA
MARCO RUBIO, FLORIDA
CINDY HYDE-SMITH, MISSISSIPPI

PATRICK J. LEAHY, VERMONT
PATTY MURRAY, WASHINGTON
DIANNE FEINSTEIN, CALIFORNIA
RICHARD J. DURBIN, ILLINOIS
JACK REED, RHODE ISLAND
JON TESTER, MONTANA
TOM UDALL, NEW MEXICO
JEANNE SHAHEEN, NEW HAMPSHIRE
JEFF MERKLEY, OREGON
CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, DELAWARE
BRIAN SCHATZ, HAWAII
TAMMY BALDWIN, WISCONSIN
CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY, CONNECTICUT
JOE MANCHIN, III, WEST VIRGINIA
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, MARYLAND

SHANNON HUTCHERSON HINES, STAFF DIRECTOR
CHARLES E. KIEFFER, MINORITY STAFF DIRECTOR

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025

<http://appropriations.senate.gov>

October 9, 2018

The Honorable Robert E. Lighthizer
Ambassador
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

As Chairman and Vice Chair of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, we write to request additional information on your agency's efforts to help small businesses affected by the Administration's tariffs on our trading partners.

At a hearing on July 26, 2018, you indicated that your agency recognizes the impact that tariffs have on small businesses. In addition to disrupting costs, supply chains and markets, the Administration's tariffs have added new red tape and bureaucratic processes that small businesses have been forced to navigate. Unlike large corporations, most small businesses do not have the time or resources to devote to reading the Federal Register, understanding the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States and making the case to federal agencies that their products should be exempt.

While we recognize the need to rein in unfair trade practices, we have concerns with the Administration's approach to imposing tariffs, especially on our allies. We hope to work with you to make any exclusion process and tariff impacts as painless as possible for small businesses and are eager to learn what steps your agency has taken to address these concerns. In particular, we request that you respond to the following questions:

- What specific steps has your agency undertaken to educate small businesses about tariffs and processes for filing exclusion requests?
- Has your agency provided any technical assistance to individual small businesses filing exclusion requests? If so, how many?
- Have you worked with the Small Business Administration (SBA) and its network of resource partners to provide information and assistance to small businesses related to filing exclusion requests?

- Does your agency offer a single point of contact for small businesses that have questions related to navigating your agency's exclusion process?
- What steps has your agency taken to ensure that affected small businesses are aware of potential tariffs on their products? Has the Department provided deadline extensions for small firms that may not have been aware that tariffs would be imposed on products that they import or export?
- What outreach, if any, has your agency done to examine the impact of tariffs on affected small businesses?

We urge you to respond to these questions promptly and look forward to working with you to ensure the small businesses are able to focus their energy on growth and job creation.

Sincerely,



Jerry Moran
Chairman
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science and Related Agencies



Jeanne Shaheen
Vice Chair
Subcommittee on Commerce,
Justice, Science and Related Agencies

CC: The Honorable Linda McMahon
Small Business Administration