

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 12, 2026

The Honorable Scott Bessent
Secretary of Treasury
Department of Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20220

The Honorable Rodney Scott
Commissioner
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20229

Dear Secretary Bessent and Commissioner Scott:

I write to urge your agencies to take steps to ensure American consumers benefit from the recently announced tariff refunds. Hardworking Americans bore the brunt of these tariffs, yet the refunds are only going to corporations, and the Administration has taken no actions to guarantee that consumers see any refunds or relief.

Let's be clear: tariffs are not paid by foreign countries, they are paid for by American consumers. The first round of tariffs issued by the administration under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) were struck down and ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court in February of this year.

Over \$160 billion in revenue this administration collected under the illegal tariff scheme is set to be refunded back to companies and importers, including Amazon, Apple, Walmart, Costco, Fedex and UPS.¹ Apple received an estimated \$2 billion, Amazon revealed it received \$600 million, and UPS estimates it will receive over \$5 billion in tariff refunds.² These refunds are benefiting these corporations' CEOs and bottomline — not American consumers.

The cost of tariffs were paid by consumers in the form of higher prices. According to the Tax Foundation, these tariffs cost Americans \$1,000 last year.³ Despite Americans footing the bill, these businesses are not required to provide those refunds back to everyday consumers, leaving everyday working class folks holding the bag. I urge your agencies to work across the Administration and use every tool available to ensure these corporations pass this relief on to consumers.

Instead of working to ensure these refunds are provided to consumers, this Administration is doubling down on more tariffs. The Administration recently imposed new tariffs as high as 12.5% under a different law even after IEEPA tariffs were struck down by the courts.⁴ This will continue to put pressure on Americans who are already stretched too thin.

1 Breuninger, K. (2026, August 7). Trump admin refunds \$100 billion in "Liberation Day" tariffs. CNBC. <https://www.cnn.com/2026/08/05/trump-tariffs-refunds-ieepa-lawsuit.html>

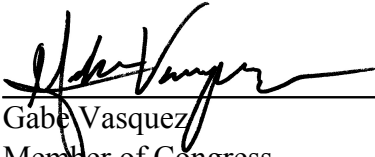
2 Taylor, G. (2026, April 28). Ups flags \$5b in tariff refunds, holds outlook despite fuel volatility. Yahoo! Finance. <https://finance.yahoo.com/economy/policy/articles/ups-flags-5b-tariff-refunds-180833099.html>

3 The State of U.S. tariffs. The Budget Lab. (2026, July 24). <https://budgetlab.yale.edu/research/state-us-tariffs>

4 NPR. (2026, July 24). U.S. allies hit with new tariffs object to Trump's forced labor allegations. NPR. <https://www.npr.org/2026/07/24/nx-s1-5906301/us-global-trump-tariffs-reaction>

More tariffs are the exact opposite of what American families need as they grapple with the cost increases caused by this Administration's reckless actions, including soaring gas prices due to the war in Iran and skyrocketing healthcare and utility bill costs because of the Republican tax law. The very least your agencies should do is work to ensure that corporations receiving refunds take actions to pass relief to American consumers and stop the reckless tariffs that are continuing to drive up prices.

Sincerely,



Gabe Vasquez
Member of Congress