

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 27, 2026

The Honorable Scott Bessent
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20220

Dear Secretary Bessent:

Your comments following the Supreme Court's decision to correctly invalidate this administration's illegal tariff regime are completely unacceptable, as is the administration's apparent decision to deny automatic refunds of these illegally collected tariffs.

On Friday, after the Supreme Court's ruling, you said "the American people won't see" the billions of dollars in tariff revenue unlawfully collected from them. Then, on Sunday, you doubled down, dismissing questions about refunds as "bad framing," repeatedly insisting the matter is "up to the lower court" rather than the administration, and refusing to answer whether small business owners who bore the cost of these illegal tariffs would ever get their money back.

These statements stand in direct contradiction to your own prior commitments and are a slap in the face to American businesses and families who you illegally taxed by well over \$130 billion. In January, you said that issuing tariff refunds "won't be a problem" for the Treasury, and that "if the court says it, we'd have to do it." The Court has said it. In a 6-3 ruling, it found that the president exceeded his legal authority. You need to give the people their money back.

The American people — small business owners, importers, manufacturers, and the consumers who ultimately bore the cost of these illegal taxes — deserve better than this stonewalling. This money does not belong to the federal government. It belongs to the businesses and individuals you illegally taxed.

The administration must immediately:

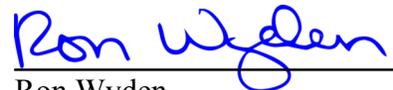
1. Direct U.S. Customs and Border Protection to begin processing automatic refunds for all tariffs and customs duties unlawfully collected under IEEPA since January 20, 2025;
2. Establish a transparent and expeditious refund process that prioritizes small businesses and ensures that funds are returned to those who bore the costs;
3. Provide a clear public timeline — no longer than 90 days — for the initiation of refund disbursements; and,
4. Cease any efforts to delay, condition, or deny refunds pending further litigation, in keeping with your prior assurances that refunds would be issued if the Court ruled.

The Supreme Court's ruling was not, as you characterized it, "a loss for the American people." It was a reaffirmation that no president is above the law. The true loss for the American people would be an administration that collected over \$130 billion in illegal taxes and then refused — with a smile and a shrug — to give it back. If this administration does not act, Congress will.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Finance



Angela D. Alsobrooks
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



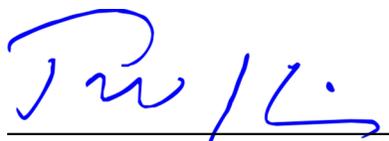
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



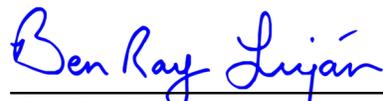
Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Andy Kim
United States Senator



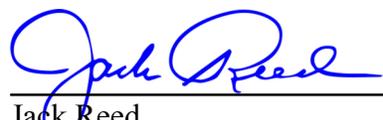
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Jack Reed
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



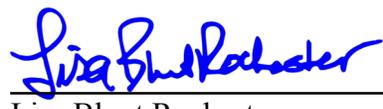
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Lisa Blunt Rochester
United States Senator