

February 27, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write on behalf of the people and taxpayers of Maryland regarding the financial harm caused by the tariffs imposed by your Administration that have since been ruled unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court. As Governor, Comptroller, and Treasurer of Maryland, it is our duty to safeguard the fiscal interests of this state and to ensure that when unlawful government action causes economic harm to Marylanders, we pursue every available avenue of accountability and restitution.

Maryland is a state built on trade, innovation, and hard work. From the Port of Baltimore to our advanced manufacturing sector, our life sciences companies, our small businesses, and our family farms, we are deeply connected to global markets. When your Administration imposed these tariffs, Maryland businesses were forced to respond. Companies that import goods paid directly at the border; those that rely on imported materials, equipment, and components absorbed higher input costs. In both cases, those costs were passed along to consumers, raising prices for working families already confronting a difficult cost of living. Marylanders saw prices increase on a broad range of everyday goods, from groceries and household appliances to medical supplies and construction materials.

The financial toll on our state has been significant. Based on data from the U.S. Joint Economic Committee, which estimates that the Trump Administration's tariff actions cost American consumers approximately **\$1,744 per household**, and accounting for Maryland's approximately 2.4 million households, our offices estimate that Maryland businesses and consumers bore an estimated **\$4 billion** in direct and indirect tariff-related costs during the period these unconstitutional measures were in effect. That figure represents real dollars extracted from Marylanders' pockets — dollars that could have been invested in growing businesses, hiring workers, and supporting household budgets across every county and jurisdiction in our state.

The Supreme Court of the United States has now made clear, in a 6-3 ruling, that these tariffs were imposed without constitutional authority. The power to levy taxes and tariffs belongs to Congress — not the Executive Branch. That foundational principle was violated when your Administration unilaterally imposed sweeping global tariffs under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act. The funds collected under that unconstitutional authority were not lawfully owed to the federal government. Marylanders should not be left to absorb the consequences of an unlawful federal policy.

Accordingly, we formally request that your Administration take immediate steps to refund to the State of Maryland the tariff revenues unlawfully collected from Maryland businesses and consumers. We respectfully request that these funds be remitted to the Office of the Comptroller of Maryland, so that we can effectuate an orderly and equitable distribution to affected Marylanders. As a precedent, the courts established a refund mechanism in the 1990s when a harbor maintenance fee was struck down as unconstitutional, demonstrating that restitution on this scale, while logistically complex, is both achievable and legally appropriate.

Maryland is committed to building an economy that works for everyone — one that is competitive, resilient, and fair. That work depends on a partnership between state and federal governments grounded in respect for the rule of law and a shared commitment to fiscal responsibility. If the federal government collected funds under an unconstitutional policy, it has a legal and moral obligation to return those funds to the people from whom they were taken.

Marylanders deserve transparency, accountability, and restitution. Our offices stand ready to engage constructively with the Administration, the U.S. Department of the Treasury, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection to establish an orderly, efficient, and equitable path forward for the businesses and families who bore the burden of these unconstitutional tariffs. We trust that you will respond to this request with the urgency it deserves.

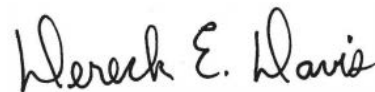
Sincerely,



Wes Moore  
Governor of Maryland



Brooke E. Lierman  
Maryland Comptroller



Dereck E. Davis  
Maryland State Treasurer

CC: The Honorable Scott Bessent, Secretary of the Treasury