

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 22, 2026

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary
Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Ambassador Jamieson Greer
United States Trade Representative
Executive Office of the President
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

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

Dear Secretaries Lutnick and Bessent and Ambassador Greer:

President Trump promised us that his chaotic, across-the-board tariffs—paid for by Americans—would yield a “manufacturing boom” that would “create millions and millions of jobs, massively raise wages for American workers, and make the United States into a manufacturing powerhouse like it used to be many years ago.”¹ But no “boom” has materialized—in fact, during President Trump’s term, the “blue-collar jobs boom” has been a blue-collar bust.² Blue-collar jobs are disappearing, a trend that economists blame at least in part on the president’s historic and volatile tariff policy.³ The Trump Administration’s trade agenda has favored the interests of wealthy corporations and Trump allies, leaving manufacturing workers behind.

After campaigning on promises to lower costs for American families “on day one,” President Trump’s disastrous economic policies, including sweeping IEEPA tariffs, have driven up prices for American families and small businesses.⁴ Despite what President Trump baselessly claimed, foreign companies did not “eat” the tariffs,⁵ nor did corporate importers with huge profit margins

¹ The White House, “President Trump Continues to Drive an American Manufacturing Boom,” press release, October 15, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/2025/10/president-trump-continues-to-drive-an-american-manufacturing-boom>; New York Times, “Trump Said He’d Unleash the Economy in Year 1. Here’s How He Did.,” Ben Casselman, January 18, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2026/01/19/business/economy/trump-economy.html>.

² CNN, “Trump promised a blue-collar jobs boom. The opposite is happening,” Nayeli Jaramillo-Plata and Matt Egan, December 17, 2025, <https://www.cnn.com/2025/12/17/economy/jobs-trump-manufacturing-trade>.

³ *Id.*

⁴ Fox News, “Trump breaks 'Day One' promise to lower costs as prices surge across America in first six months,” Terry Holt and Andrew Bates, August 6, 2025, <https://www.foxnews.com/opinion/trump-breaks-day-one-promise-lower-costs-prices-surge-across-america-first-six-months>.

⁵ Yahoo! Finance, “Trump said foreign countries would ‘eat’ tariffs—but U.S. consumers and businesses will actually pay 75% at best,” Eleanor Pringle, August 11, 2025, <https://finance.yahoo.com/news/trump-said-foreign-countries-eat-101540949.html>.

simply absorb the costs.⁶ Instead, the cost of the tariffs fell squarely on American consumers and small businesses.⁷ Already, President Trump’s trade policies have cost families an average of \$1,700, and estimates indicate that American households will end up paying for 95 percent of the President’s tariffs.⁸ And his illegal war in Iran is driving up the cost of oil and gasoline, making everyday life more expensive for working Americans.⁹

President Trump admitted that the tariffs would inflict “some pain” on American families, but claimed that his tariffs “will make America great again, and it will all be worth the price that must be paid.”¹⁰ He has since claimed that manufacturing jobs hit a record high, that the “Trump effect” is producing “higher pay for American workers,” and that companies are “building plants and factories all over the country.”¹¹

These claims are baseless falsehoods. To be sure, tariffs are an important economic tool to level the playing field for U.S. workers and reshore key industries, but they must be employed with careful consideration, as part of a broader industrial strategy. The Trump Administration has imposed tariffs haphazardly, without regard for the other tools needed to strengthen domestic manufacturing and gutted investments in energy and the resiliency of critical supply chains. The resulting chaos has actually discouraged investment. Despite the Administration’s grandstanding, the data present a grim outlook for the manufacturing sector and the blue-collar workers the Administration claims to champion. Since the President’s announcement of sweeping tariffs with nearly all trading partners in April 2025, manufacturing jobs have disappeared, with nearly 100,000 manufacturing jobs lost since April 2025.¹² Spending on construction in the manufacturing sector has declined steadily in each month since he assumed the presidency.¹³ The U.S. manufacturing sector is now spending ten percent less on construction

⁶ Liberty Street Economics, “Are Businesses Absorbing the Tariffs or Passing Them On to Their Customers?,” Jason R. Abel, Richard Deitz, Sebastian Heise, Ben Hyman, and Nick Montalbano, June 4, 2025, <https://libertystreeteconomics.newyorkfed.org/2025/06/are-businesses-absorbing-the-tariffs-or-passing-them-on-to-their-customers/>.

⁷ Congressional Budget Office, “The Budget and Economic Outlook: 2026 to 2036,” February 11, 2026, <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/61882>.

⁸ Joint Economic Committee, “American Families Have Paid More Than \$1,700 Each in Tariff Costs Since Trump Entered Office,” February 2026, https://www.jec.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/7cc03e65-d40a-465f-9e88-09dd53d3502f/jec-fact-sheet-on-cost-of-tariffs-for-families-update.pdf; Congressional Budget Office, “The Budget and Economic Outlook: 2026 to 2036,” February 2026, <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2026-02/61882-Outlook-2026.pdf>.

⁹ Washington Post, “One gas station, two drivers and three fill-ups: the Iran war hits home,” Casey Parks, Chris Hacker and Dylan Moriarty, March 22, 2026, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2026/03/22/iran-war-gas-price-surge/>.

¹⁰ PBS News, “Trump says Americans could feel 'some pain' as his new tariffs begin to set off a trade war,” Josh Boak, February 2, 2025, <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/trump-says-americans-could-feel-some-pain-as-his-new-tariffs-begin-to-set-off-a-trade-war>.

¹¹ President Donald Trump, Remarks before Governors' Dinner at the White House, February 21, 2026, <https://rollcall.com/factbase/trump/transcript/donald-trump-remarks-governors-dinner-white-house-february-21-2026/?source=email>.

¹² Politico, “A year later, here's where things stand on Trump's manufacturing revival,” Daniel Desrochers and Sam Sutton, April 2, 2026, <https://www.politico.com/news/2026/04/02/manufacturers-still-waiting-trump-tariff-promises-00854987>.

than it was in 2024.¹⁴ This decline is also reflected in the pipeline of planned projects – the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) reported a drop in the amount of construction backlog, or projects yet to be begun, in the fall of 2025.¹⁵ ABC also reported that about a quarter of contractors “reported having a project delayed or canceled due to tariffs,” and experts describe the construction sector as a “no-hire environment,”¹⁶ since “the economic uncertainty tariffs have brought has disincentivized companies from hiring.”¹⁷ And the war in Iran has only made things worse – rising fuel costs and disruptions in global supply chains are forcing construction projects to stall.¹⁸

Nor have President Trump’s tariffs actually halted offshoring. Even the President’s allies are moving manufacturing jobs abroad – hedge fund billionaire John Paulson, who has been a staunch defender of the Administration’s tariffs, will close his brass instrument manufacturing plant in Ohio and move the operation – and around 150 jobs – to China.¹⁹ Whirlpool, the top U.S. appliance manufacturer and another loyal defender of the Administration’s tariff policies, has cut nearly 500 U.S. jobs since President Trump announced his sweeping tariffs, while expanding their operations in Mexico.²⁰ The U.S. has increased imports of manufactured goods by 4.3 percent²¹ over the past year, and despite the tariffs, the trade deficit specifically for manufactured goods was about 4 percent higher in 2025 than it was in 2024.²²

This set of facts reveals the truth: that President Trump’s disastrous trade and economic policies have hurt American manufacturing, breaking the President’s promises to workers and the public.

¹³ Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, “Total Construction Spending: Manufacturing in the United States,” <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/TLMFGCONS>.

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ Associated Builders and Contractors, “ABC’s Construction Backlog Indicator Falls, Contractor Optimism Stable,” September 16, 2025, <https://www.abc.org/News-Media/News-Releases/abcs-construction-backlog-indicator-falls-contractor-optimism-stable>.

¹⁶ Reuters, “US factory headcount falling despite Trump’s promised manufacturing boom,” Howard Schneider, January 9, 2026, <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-factory-headcount-falling-despite-trumps-promised-manufacturing-boom-2026-01-09/>.

¹⁷ Fortune, “Nobel economist warns a dearth of blue-collar jobs is among the biggest threats to the U.S. economy—and they fell by more than 100,000 last year,” Sasha Rogelberg, February 20, 2026, <https://fortune.com/2026/02/20/nobel-economist-joseph-stiglitz-blue-collar-manufacturing-job-loss-tariffs/>.

¹⁸ Baker Donelson, “The 2026 Iran War and Its Global Impact on Construction Supply Chains,” Maia Fleischman, March 9, 2026, <https://www.bakerdonelson.com/the-2026-iran-war-and-its-global-impact-on-construction-supply-chains>.

¹⁹ The Independent, “Billionaire Trump donor and tariff advocate is moving his Ohio manufacturing plant to China: report,” Brendan Rascius, February 16, 2026, <https://www.the-independent.com/news/world/americas/us-politics/trump-donor-ohio-plant-china-b2921497.html>.

²⁰ The Guardian, “Workers decry Whirlpool offshoring jobs despite praise for Trump’s tariffs,” Michael Sainato, February 26, 2026, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/feb/26/whirlpools-job-cuts-trumps-tariffs>.

²¹ USA Today, “US trade deficit widened in December; 2025 goods trade gap highest on record,” Lucia Mutikani, February 19, 2026, <https://www.usatoday.com/story/money/2026/02/19/us-trade-deficit-widened-december-2025/88758924007/>.

²² New York Times, “In 2025, Trade Deficit in Goods Reached Record High,” Ben Casselman and Ana Swanson, February 19, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/19/business/economy/imports-tariffs-trade-deficit.html>.

In order to better understand how and why the Administration's policies have failed, and what you intend to do to reverse this failure, I ask that you respond to the following questions by July 6, 2026:

1. What is the explanation for the trade deficit on manufactured goods increasing after the imposition of President Trump's tariffs?
 - a. What are the implications of the increasing trade deficit on manufactured goods for manufacturing employment?
 - b. Did the Administration intend to increase the trade deficit?
 - c. What actions will the Administration take in 2026 to reduce the trade deficit on manufactured goods?
2. Why has the Administration characterized the loss of tens of thousands of manufacturing jobs as a "manufacturing boom"?
3. President Trump has described the current moment as a "manufacturing renaissance."²³ Is that an accurate characterization?
4. President Trump has claimed that he has secured "around \$18 trillion"²⁴ in new investments during this presidency. However, the White House's tracker of investments shows a total of just \$10.5 trillion as of March 18, 2026.²⁵ Which estimate is accurate: \$10.5 trillion or \$18 trillion? Please provide a full list of all new investments that the Administration is counting in this estimate?
5. President Trump has claimed that the US is "building more factories now than at any time in the history of our country."²⁶ Is that statement accurate?
 - a. If so, please provide the data that led the President to make that claim.
 - b. If not, why did the President make that claim?
6. The data show that the U.S. lost manufacturing jobs in every month of 2025.²⁷ However, the Vice President has claimed that in the President's first full month in office, "America gained 10,000 manufacturing jobs."²⁸ Is the Vice President's statement accurate?
 - a. If so, please provide the data that led the Vice President to make that claim.
 - b. If not, why did the Vice President make that claim?
7. Since President Trump took office, the number of manufacturing jobs in the U.S. has declined by 88,000. Yet the President has claimed that manufacturing is "roaring back"²⁹ under President Trump. Is that an accurate characterization?

²³ MS NOW, "The 'manufacturing renaissance' exists only in Trump's imagination," Steve Benen, January 15, 2026, <https://www.ms.now/rachel-maddow-show/maddowblog/the-manufacturing-renaissance-exists-only-in-trumps-imagination>.

²⁴ FactCheck, "FactChecking Trump's Economic Speech," Alan Jaffe and Lori Robertson, December 11, 2025, <https://www.factcheck.org/2025/12/factchecking-trumps-economic-speech/>.

²⁵ The White House, "Major Investment Announcements," <https://www.whitehouse.gov/investments/>.

²⁶ Cincinnati Enquirer, "Trump claimed the economy is 'roaring.' The numbers say otherwise," Dan Horn, March 12, 2026, <https://www.cincinnati.com/story/news/politics/2026/03/12/trumps-claims-about-roaring-economy-arent-backed-by-the-numbers/89109177007/>.

²⁷ U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, "All employees, thousands, manufacturing, seasonally adjusted, 2016-2026," <https://data.bls.gov/timeseries/CES3000000001&sa=D&source=docs&ust=1774294643962651&usg=AOvVaw2nrkPAGoRYXmPJpMHFzmEl>.

²⁸ Remarks by Vice President J.D. Vance in Bay City, Michigan, March 14, 2025, <https://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/documents/remarks-the-vice-president-bay-city-michigan>.

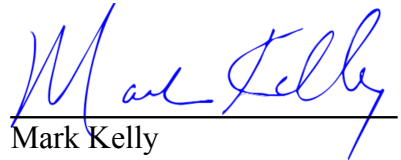
- a. If so, please provide the data that led the President to make that claim.
 - b. If not, why did the President not tell the truth about his tariffs?
8. The Administration has claimed that foreign investment driven by your tariff policy has created “hundreds of thousands of new, good-paying jobs for Americans.”³⁰
 - a. If so, please provide the data that led the Administration to make that claim.
 - b. If not, why did the President not tell the truth about his tariffs?
9. What did the Administration’s economic modeling predict regarding the rate of offshoring in the manufacturing sector after the imposition of sweeping tariffs?
 - a. If these models predicted less offshoring, why were they wrong?
 - b. If these models predicted more offshoring, why did the Administration move forward with these policies?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator

²⁹ The White House, “Manufacturing is Roaring Back Under President Donald J. Trump,” press release, March 7, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/2025/03/manufacturing-is-roaring-back-under-president-donald-j-trump/>.

³⁰ The White House, “President Trump is Putting American Workers First — And Bringing Back American Manufacturing,” March 4, 2025, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/articles/2025/03/president-trump-is-putting-american-workers-first-and-bringing-back-american-manufacturing>.