

April 30, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for S.J.Res.49 - A joint resolution terminating the national emergency declared to impose global tariffs

Dear Majority Leader Thune and Ranking Member Schumer:

On behalf of the National Retail Federation, I write in support of S.J.Res.49 – A joint resolution terminating the national emergency declared to impose global tariffs. While we strongly agree with the need for better trade relationships and to hold our trading partners accountable, we do not believe using global tariffs is the right approach to achieve this goal, especially with some of our closest trading partners and allies.

NRF, the world's largest retail trade association, passionately advocates for the people, brands, policies and ideas that help retail succeed. NRF empowers the industry that powers the economy. Retail is the nation's largest private-sector employer, contributing \$5.3 trillion to annual GDP and supporting one in four U.S. jobs — 55 million working Americans. For over a century, NRF has been a voice for every retailer and every retail job, educating, inspiring and communicating the powerful impact retail has on local communities and global economies.

The global and reciprocal tariffs are already having a significant impact on NRF members, especially small Main Street retailers¹. We are now in the all-important buying time for retailers when they are making their decisions on what products to purchase for the important back-to-school and winter holiday seasons. As a result of the tariffs, especially the 125% China tariffs, they are canceling, delaying or just not ordering product at this time. They cannot afford the significant increase of the tariffs and are not able to pass along such price increases to their customers.

NRF's recent Global Port Tracker ²forecasts that “imports during the second half of 2025 are now expected to be down at least 20% year over year” because of the tariffs. This is a significant decline in trade that will impact the U.S. economy. Press reports ³from the Port of Los Angeles note that cargo volumes will plunge in in the next two weeks because of the tariffs, impacting port operations, including truckers.

¹ [The cost of tariffs on small businesses](#), April 17, 2025

² [Import Cargo Levels to Drop Sharply Amid New Tariffs and Uncertainty](#), April 9, 2025

³ [Traffic at the Port of Los Angeles set to plunge amid tariffs](#), April 24, 2025



It is also important to note that consumers are concerned about the impact of the tariffs on their households and the impact on the price of everyday consumer goods. In recent consumer polling⁴ NRF conducted with Morning Consult, we found that 76% of voters are concerned about the impact of tariffs on prices. In addition, 81% of voters are concerned about small businesses closing, given the economy. Finally, voters are most concerned about the impact on prices from imposing tariffs on U.S. neighbors and allies such as Canada (66%), Mexico (64%) and Europe (62%).

We understand that the administration is conducting negotiations with a number of countries during the 90-day pause on the reciprocal tariffs. However, there is great uncertainty as to what happens at the end of the 90-day pause if negotiations are not concluded. Will the higher reciprocal tariffs be implemented on certain countries? It is also unclear if the global 10% tariff will be removed as a result of the negotiations. We strongly urge quick negotiations with our allies and trading partners to resolve these issues and remove the global and reciprocal tariffs. We also call upon Congress to reassert its congressional authority regarding trade and tariffs and engage with the administration to remove these harmful tariffs.

For the reasons above, we encourage senators to vote in favor of S.J.Res.49 and remove the global tariffs. If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "David French". The signature is stylized and fluid.

David French
Executive Vice President
Government Relations

⁴ How voters really feel about the 2025 tariffs - <https://nrf.com/blog/how-voters-really-feel-about-the-2025-tariffs> (3/31/25)