

U.S. House of Representatives
Rep. Sharice L. Davids
Kansas Third District

October 16, 2026

The Honorable Kelly Loeffler
Administrator
U.S. Small Business Administration
409 3rd St. SW
Washington, D.C. 20416

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

Dear Administrator Loeffler and Commissioner Scott,

I write to share my concerns about the impact of the Trump Administration's trade war and tariff refund process on Kansas small businesses. Local small businesses have already paid the price of higher tariffs. Now, as the federal government works to return billions of dollars in tariffs that were collected, small businesses are at risk of being left behind.

The Center for American Progress estimates the average Kansas small business importer has only received \$49,000 in refunds, compared with the \$140,000 paid in tariffs (as of August 2026).¹ At the same time, some of the nation's largest corporations have received refunds worth hundreds of millions of dollars.²

Following the Supreme Court's decision earlier this year overturning President Trump's broad International Emergency Economic Powers Act tariffs, Customs and Border Protection (CBP) began processing refunds for eligible businesses. These refunds are not automatic. The Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta found that larger firms are somewhat more likely to receive or seek refunds, relying on internal staff or outside firms to navigate the process.³

Kansas small businesses often lack the staff to navigate a complicated federal refund process. Some may also be ineligible to apply, even though they ultimately paid higher prices because of tariffs. For example, a tariff may be passed from an importer to a small business through a supplier, but the refund may go to the original importer – not the small business that absorbed the higher cost.

¹ Ryan Mulholland, Mimla Wardak, Kennedy Andara, "Refunds From the Trump Administration's Unlawful Tariffs Are a Windfall for Corporate America, Not for Small Businesses or Consumers," Center for American Progress, October 1, 2026, <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/refunds-from-the-trump-administrations-unlawful-tariffs-are-a-windfall-for-corporate-america-not-for-small-businesses-or-consumers/>.

² Matthew Gardner, "The Biggest Winners from Trump's Tariff Refunds are Big Corporations," Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, September 3, 2026, <https://itep.org/trump-tariff-refunds-corporations-price-increases-walmart-nike/>.

³ "How Are Firms Using Their Tariff Refunds?" Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, September 21, 2026, <https://www.atlantafed.org/research-and-data/publications/policy-hub-macroblog/2026/09/21/how-are-firms-using-tariff-refunds>.

Small businesses should not need a team of lawyers or customs specialists to recover money they are owed.

I urge the Small Business Administration to work with CBP and other federal agencies to create a realistic, efficient, and accessible path for small businesses to receive the tariff refunds they are owed. This should include a straightforward process for businesses that have not yet applied, as well as clear guidance and assistance for small businesses navigating the process.

The businesses with the fewest resources should not face the greatest barriers to recovering their money while large corporations are better positioned to navigate the system. I urge the administration to ensure that the refund process works for the small businesses that need this relief most.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'SD', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress