



Office of Governor Tim Walz & Lt. Governor Peggy Flanagan

March 24, 2026

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1609 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 2050

Dear President Trump,

On behalf of the people of Minnesota, I call for the immediate return of funds collected under your administration's unlawful tariffs. These actions have imposed real financial harm on Minnesota families, farmers, and businesses, and that money must be paid back.

Minnesotans cannot afford the economic instability caused by your administration's trade policies. Families are paying more for groceries, gas, and everyday goods because of tariffs that exceed your legal authority. Courts now confirm what economists, businesses, and state leaders have warned from the start: these tariffs force Americans to shoulder billions of dollars in unnecessary costs.

According to the [U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee](#), tariffs imposed between February 2025 and January 2026 increased costs for American households by roughly \$1,745 each. For Minnesota's 2.4 million households, that amounts to more than \$4.1 billion taken out of people's pockets.

But some of the most serious and lasting damage is unfolding in our agricultural economy.

Minnesota farmers are among the most productive in the world, but they depend on stable global markets to succeed. Since the onset of these trade policies, those markets have eroded. [U.S. Soybean exports have fallen](#) from 47% of the global market in 2018 to just 24.4% today,

while competitors such as Brazil have gained more than 20 percentage points. These are not temporary shifts. When buyers shift supply chains, those relationships are often gone for good.

Minnesota farmers export more than [\\$8.3 billion in agricultural goods](#) each year, and as demand weakens, many farmers are planting crops at a loss. Federal assistance programs attempt to fill the gap, but by current estimates, they only cover 30% of losses for many farmers this year. In early FY2026, 866 Minnesota farmers entered debt mediation, a sharp increase from prior years, while [farm bankruptcies across the Midwest rose 70%](#) in 2025. Minnesota has [lost approximately 1,300 farms](#) in just two years. Farmers do not want bailouts to replace functioning markets; they want stability, reliable trade relationships, and the ability to compete.

Beyond agriculture, tariffs raise costs across the broader economy. Minnesota imports roughly \$40 billion in goods annually, and tariffs increase prices on groceries, construction materials, and critical farm inputs. Tariffs on Canadian energy have also contributed to an estimated 5% increase in gasoline prices, adding further strain on families already facing higher costs.

Compounding these challenges is ongoing trade uncertainty. Constantly shifting tariff policies make it difficult for farmers and businesses to plan, invest, or expand, driving long-term economic harm.

Minnesotans work hard and play by the rules. They expect the same from their government. When unlawful federal actions impose billions in costs on working people and small businesses, those costs must be repaid.

I call on your administration to immediately develop and implement a plan to return tariff revenues collected under these unlawful actions directly to the families, farmers, and businesses who paid them. Minnesota's economy depends on stability, fair competition, and strong global markets—not prolonged uncertainty and growing reliance on federal bailouts.

Sincerely,
Governor Tim Walz