

September 17, 2025

Howard Lutnick
Secretary
Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20230

RE: Impact of Tariffs on Auto Parts, Vehicles, and Car Insurance Premiums

Dear Secretary Lutnick,

I write today to express my concerns regarding the impact of the Administration's tariffs on auto parts and whole vehicles causing increasing auto insurance premiums and rising car prices. To protect American families from another price increase, it is necessary that the Administration exempt imported car parts and automobiles from tariffs.

Tariffs imposed on imported automotive parts have led to an increase in the cost of vehicle repairs. With car repair costs rising, insurance companies are having to pay more to fix damaged cars causing higher premiums to be passed onto American families. Auto insurance rates are projected to increase by as much as 7% due to tariffs, with families in my home state of California expected to pay \$2,711 this year. A single fender-bender that once required a few hundred dollars in repairs now is likely to surpass a thousand, largely due to tariff-inflated goods such as bumpers, windshields, and electronic components. Ensuring these parts remain affordable is critical not just for routine repairs, but for protecting driver safety and preventing insurance costs from spiraling further out of reach.

In my district, car ownership is a necessity and many people commute hours every day to make a hard-earned living. Imported vehicle tariffs are adding pressure to families who need to buy a new car but are already struggling with inflation and high living costs. The Consumer Price Index is showing an increase in new and used cars, with the latter experiencing a 6% increase and being the number one contributor to overall inflation. With these skyrocketing costs, buying a new or used car is becoming more difficult for many families in California's Central Valley.

I support efforts to protect American manufacturing and jobs. However, it is critical to consider an exemption for commonly replaced auto parts and whole vehicles from current and future

tariffs. By carving out this exemption, we can relieve unnecessary pressure on the repair, insurance, and car manufacturing industries as well as reduce costs for American drivers.

I urge the Department of Commerce to work with the Administration to exempt imported auto parts and whole vehicles from tariffs to lower auto insurance premiums and car prices for American consumers. Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Harder". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Josh Harder
Member of Congress