

March 5, 2025  
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Dear Mr President:

I am concerned about graft.

Yesterday sweeping tariffs were levied on goods from our three main trading partners. The immediate effects have been retaliation, falling stock prices and pundits worrying about inflation and recession. Like other sales taxes tariffs tend to be quite regressive. You have already hinted at exemptions and had such a process seven years ago. Trade Representative Greer was also involved then so the processes may be similar. Then it was opaque with hundreds of thousands of requests, a fifty percent surge in lobbying and bias towards those supporting Republicans. Thus rather than an even field for companies large and small it becomes a tool for extortion perhaps to donate to your party, buy the reportedly one to five million dollar seats at your dinners or announce discriminatory (anti-DEI) policies.

*Please assure me that you will support fair and progressive taxes.*

My pride in the US derives in part from our government integrity.

Sincerely,

Eric Babson