



News Release

Comptroller Lierman Joins Coalition of 15 State Financial Officers Urging President Trump to Uphold Constitutional Limits on Tariff Authority

Multi-state coalition calls for congressional authorization of sweeping tariffs and restitution for unconstitutional import taxes

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (February 26, 2026) — Comptroller **Brooke E. Lierman** today announced that she has joined a coalition of 15 state fiscal officers in sending a formal letter to President Donald J. Trump urging his Administration to adhere to the United States Supreme Court’s recent decision clarifying limits on executive authority to impose tariffs and to refrain from implementing any across-the-board tariff without explicit congressional authorization.

The coalition, representing state treasurers, comptrollers, auditors, and controllers responsible for safeguarding billions in public assets and ensuring long-term fiscal stability, warns that proposals for a 15 percent global tariff would represent a sweeping restructuring of the American tax base that constitutionally belongs to Congress.

“The Supreme Court was clear: the power to levy taxes and duties rests with Congress,” **Comptroller Brooke Lierman** said. “As state financial officers, we depend on stable, lawful federal policy to build responsible budgets and protect taxpayers.”

The letter follows a recent Supreme Court decision underscoring that executive authorities designed for narrow emergency circumstances should not be used for broad economic restructuring absent legislative direction.

The coalition argues that durable economic growth depends on predictability and adherence to constitutional limits. Sudden or unlawful tariff actions, they note, inject volatility into financial markets, disrupt supply chains, raise costs for manufacturers and consumers, which contribute to slower economic growth.

In their letter, the state financial officers call upon the Administration to:

- Refrain from implementing any across-the-board tariff absent explicit congressional authorization
- Establish a clear and timely mechanism to reimburse American taxpayers, businesses, and affected industries for tariffs imposed without proper constitutional grounding, including restitution for demonstrable financial losses borne by states.

The coalition emphasizes that public trust, both domestically and internationally, depends on clear adherence to constitutional processes governing taxation and trade. “When the allocation of taxing authority appears unsettled, confidence in American governance and markets is weakened,” the letter states. “Economic resilience requires constitutional clarity.”

The signatories represent states across the country and reflect a unified commitment to fiscal responsibility, economic stability, and the rule of law.

The full letter can be found [HERE](#).

Signatories include:

1. Brooke E. Lierman, Maryland Comptroller
2. Deborah B. Goldberg, Massachusetts State Treasurer and Receiver-General
3. Julie Blaha, Minnesota State Auditor
4. David L. Young, Colorado State Treasurer
5. Zach Conine, Nevada State Treasurer

6. Michael W. Frerichs, Illinois State Treasurer
7. Fiona Ma, California State Treasurer
8. Mike Pieciak, Vermont State Treasurer
9. Elizabeth Steiner, Oregon State Treasurer
10. Michael J. Pellicciotti, Washington State Treasurer
(Washington State Treasurer Pellicciotti has signed on solely in his official capacity as a state treasurer)
11. Erick Russell, Connecticut Treasurer
12. Malia Cohen, California State Controller
13. Thomas P. DiNapoli, New York State Comptroller
14. James Diossa, Rhode Island State Treasurer
15. Laura M. Montoya, New Mexico State Treasurer

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