

US Senator Maria Cantwell

Remarks at Tariffs Press Conference

July 31st, 2025

[\[VIDEO\]](#)

Sen. Cantwell: Thank you, Leader Schumer for bringing us together on this critical topic.

First, the United States Senate should not be hearing about trade or tariff policies and developments by watching cable TV. The administration officials should be telling the Congress exactly what these proposals are. This is serious business with broad economic consequences and affecting all our constituents. The Congress needs to see the fine print on what these deals really mean.

The Trump tariffs will increase prices on the American consumer, as we see here, the increased price overall for 2025 tariffs, on average, are expected to be \$2,400 in reduced income for Americans. The Seattle Times had an article this morning that ground beef was selling for \$14.49 a pound. The cost of a basic t-shirt has risen from \$10 to \$25 and Procter and Gamble, the maker of household staples like Tide and Charmin toilet paper, said, because of the tariffs, they are hiking prices next month about 25% on their products in order to offset a \$1 billion hit they are going to take because of the tariffs.

The president is also threatening tariffs on pharmaceuticals. We cannot afford any higher prices on drugs. At a time when American people are already struggling to afford life-saving drugs, the administration is trying to make them more expensive.

When the administration talks about how much revenue is coming from these tariffs, the revenue is coming right out of the pockets of Americans. Don't be fooled -- the parade of handshakes [and] press releases is meant to distract from the very real possibility the Federal Court of Appeals will rule that the Trump administration does not, and never had the legal authority to unilaterally raise taxes on imports without coming to Congress first.

Let's be clear, what the Trump administration is trying to pull off is the unconstitutional power grab of Congress' revenue raising authority. Why should we stand back and let the President of the United States raise taxes on Americans with these tariffs?

The American people deserve transparency, and they deserve lower prices. They were promised lower prices. Where are they?

Senator Cantwell Q&A

[\[VIDEO\]](#)

Reporter: Given these earnings reports that we're having, and given that the deals have resulted in substantially higher tariffs, do you think that there could be movement among Republicans so that you could get a veto proof majority, which, of course, you would need to actually end the IEEPA tariffs, if the courts do not.

Sen. Schumer: Well, I'll call on Maria for a minute, because she had a bill to put it back in Congress where it was, and I think seven Republicans joined?

Sen. Cantwell: Yeah.

Sen. Schumer: Maria.

Reporter: And also, if you could touch on Section 338 and 122 in case IEEPA is overturned in the courts. Is there something Congress should do about these other archaic laws?

Sen. Cantwell: Well, the courts are looking at these issues now, and the lower court, as you can see, basically said there was nothing in what the President was trying to say from an emergency perspective. And we don't think he's following the law as it relates to [Section 232], or any of these.

When you do tariffs like this, you have to have detailed economic analysis of the damage and the cause, and then make a point because trade is about world trade rules and order-- not about just making something up, whoever is president.

I mean, that's what distinguished even back in England, they were like, 'No, we're not giving this power to the King.' Because people realized in the founding of our country that that's a dangerous thing: to have a king or a president have this ability because it is basically a tax. So, they wanted to have a legislative body do this.

So, I think that they have not proven their use of these tariffs in any of the-- I know they think you know that that Sec. Lutnick said he could fall back on [Section 232], but you really have to have a very detailed case on [Section 232].

So listen, I represent two big companies in the State of Washington: Boeing and Microsoft, who just had great earnings reports. Why did they have great earnings reports? Because they're investing in next generation technology and they're selling into a global market. Okay, the President is proposing a contraction of us doing that. He's not proposing-- he's cutting all the science and R&D. He's cutting all the things that said, 'Come to the United States and make these things.' And, as my colleagues just mentioned, he's making all our allies mad.

So, they're thinking, 'Well, how do I counter the United States?' Instead of saying, 'This is a global market, lots of opportunity, how are we going to reach those markets? How can we get our products into those markets?' And so, the cost on the American consumer, and I think the President, thinks, 'Oh, well, somehow they'll come back.' You might force some elements to come back, but at what cost?

And the growth that we've had in a global expansion is 95% of consumers live outside the United States. The United States should be attracting the best and brightest, making the best products and selling that on a global stage, not this contraction.

Reporter: And do you think you can get more Republicans on board to check these powers?

Sen. Cantwell: Well, so yes, I do because my Republican colleagues have said, 'Let's see the deals.' And now, while there's a lot of trumpeting of these deals, they are handshake deals. You know, the Wall Street Journal called them willy nilly. I just think they don't represent the scope of what my colleagues-- when you think about the first Trump Administration and what happened with China, where they didn't follow through anyway, and our farmers were hurt, and then they came to Congress and said, 'You cough up the money to make our farmers whole,' which taxpayers ended up doing, is not what I think my Republican colleagues have in mind.

So, I think as these details of these deals become clear to them, I think you probably will hear more from them.