

**US Senator Maria Cantwell**

**Tariff Press Conference at the US Supreme Court**

**September 18, 2025**

**Travis McMaster and Senator Cantwell Remarks**

**[\[VIDEO\]](#)**

**Dan Anthony, President of We Pay the Tariffs:** Next up, we have Travis McMaster, president of COCOON in Wenatchee, Washington.

**Travis McMaster, General Manager of COCOON USA:** Thanks, Dan.

We are a 36-year-old travel goods and outdoor brand, and I first want to thank Tiffany for being here to give retailers a voice because it trickles down to them, and she's also been a customer of ours for over two decades. So this is serendipity. Thank you, Tiffany.

So we are a small business. My son, 26 years-old, runs our warehouse. My wife is our marketing manager, and because we are smaller and nimble, we can do some things to our advantage that larger companies can't, right? Changing supply chain, changing countries-- it's like riding the Titanic with a large corporation.

But I kind of outsmarted myself this time. Get out of China. We've been working with the same factory since 1991 before China was a dirty word. I visited the factory last fall with my son. Working conditions are amazing. We're not a less expensive commodity product. We pay a fair wage for all these years. We're a premium product. And I heard the call: Get out of China, so I look for some resources.

We have a manufacturer in India that's produced some of our products over the years, and he's wanted more of our business. It was a good opportunity. At a 7% tariff, it was probably business decision we should have done 10 years ago.

Here I am, switched some manufacturing to India for one of our largest retailers around the country with 195 doors. And then at the end of July, I got three days' notice that the tariffs will be more than the China tariffs.

So here we are. Did the right thing, shifted out of China to a country where there was opportunity. We need to put a stop to this, these quick changes. Our business isn't run on a whim, and our country shouldn't either. Thank you.

**Dan Anthony:** Thanks, Travis, and now last but certainly not least, Senator Maria Cantwell. She's been a great supporter of many trade issues. Trade is a critical, critical issue for Washington state, and we're so thankful that she's here today and helping us raise this awareness.

**Sen. Cantwell:** Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank you.

Well, I want to thank all of you for joining us today, but particularly the small businesses that are here, that are the backbone of the US economy. More than 75% of job growth comes from small businesses, and what we're hearing today is that they are straining under the effects of these tariffs.

I want to thank the National Retail Federation and the American Apparel and Footwear Association for helping get this event organized. And a special thanks to those businesses who traveled from my state, Travis McMaster, who you just heard from, Mike Brundidge from Seattle's Acme Foods, and Laura Lynden McGregor from Peterson Cheese in Auburn.

I want to be clear, small businesses are paying the Trump tariff. Small businesses are the ones who are being impacted, and you heard their stories, and my colleagues on Capitol Hill need to heed this advice and do something to put Congress back in charge.

If relief doesn't come fast enough, millions of jobs will be lost and livelihoods will be decimated. And I thought these small businesses did a fabulous job of talking about what each of them bring to the innovation, to the diversity, and to the products that they are delivering to a customer base. So, thank you for that. I don't want to lose that in the American economy.

We are standing here in front of the Supreme Court. In the next few weeks, justices will decide whether President Trump has the authority to arbitrarily impose those tariffs. The US. Court of International Trade has already said, 'No, he does not.' They have already said the President's tariffs are illegal. The Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit agreed. The President does not have this authority to impose these tariffs, and we can thank small businesses because they brought the court cases to the lower courts. So, thank them for leading the charge on this issue.

These are the same cases that are before the Supreme Court today. Let's be clear. Article One, Section Eight of the US Constitution gives Congress the authority over tariffs. What is there to interpret? The power of tariffs rests with the US Congress. The founders were clear, and now these lower courts have been clear, and they have said that these tariffs on the International Emergency and Economic Powers Act cannot be used in this way-- that the President has acted too broadly with his power.

So, we need the Supreme Court to also weigh in and think about the livelihoods of these businesses that are before us today, the impact on America's economy. They can't absorb this tax. You can't run a business with this level of disruption or uncertainty. And we need Congress to step in and reign this back from this White House.

These people want to create more jobs. They want to innovate. They want to have the capital that is necessary to do that, but the Trump tariffs, an actual tax on their business, is making them close their doors.

You deserve stability and certainty, and I want to fight every day until you get it. The Supreme Court must end these tariffs. The President must follow the law. Small Businesses must be repaid for the illegal tariffs.

So, I join you in saying loud and clear that the President's [tariff-first] policies are wrong. Small businesses and consumers can't afford to pay the price, and it's wrong for our economy.

So, let's make sure that everyone on Capitol Hill hears this message. Let's get our Members of Congress in the United States Senate and the House of Representatives to go back to the Cantwell-Grassley legislation and say: This is an authority of Congress and only can be approved if these policies come through Congress first.

Thank you all very much.