

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2551

To establish the Tariff Rebate Program to disburse revenues from tariffs back to the American people.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2019

Mr. COTTON introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To establish the Tariff Rebate Program to disburse revenues from tariffs back to the American people.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

4 This Act may be cited as the “Tariff Rebate Act”.

5 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

6 Congress finds the following:

7 (1) The Chinese Communist Party has ex-
8 ploited its trading relationship with the United
9 States at the expense of American workers and in-

1 dustries, including industries critical to our national
2 security such as steel and aluminum.

3 (2) Tariffs serve various strategic purposes for
4 the United States, but they also impose costs on
5 Americans by raising the price of consumer goods
6 and other imports.

7 (3) American families share the burden of tar-
8 iffs, so they should share in the revenue raised from
9 tariffs as well.

10 (4) Distributing tariff revenues as a rebate to
11 taxpayers will help Americans stand united as we
12 use trade barriers to accomplish important national
13 objectives.

14 **SEC. 3. TARIFF REBATE PROGRAM.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (e), the Sec-
16 retary of the Treasury or the Secretary's delegate (re-
17 ferred to in this section as the "Secretary") shall establish
18 and implement the Tariff Rebate Program to—

19 (1) determine the total amount collected pursu-
20 ant to duties imposed under sections 201 and 301
21 of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2251 and
22 2411) and section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act
23 of 1962 (19 U.S.C. 1862) during 2019 and each cal-
24 endar year thereafter;

- 1 (2) determine the number of eligible individuals
2 that have filed a Federal income tax return for the
3 taxable year ending with or within the applicable cal-
4 endar year under paragraph (1); and
5 (3) disburse a payment equal to the applicable
6 amount to each such eligible individual.

7 (b) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under
9 subsection (e), for purposes of this section, the term
10 “eligible individual” means an individual who, with
11 respect to any taxable year ending with or within a
12 calendar year, has—

13 (A) filed a Federal income tax return not
14 later than October 15 of the succeeding cal-
15 endar year; and

16 (B) taxable income of not greater than—
17 (i) in the case of any taxpayer filing
18 a joint return for such taxable year,
19 \$168,400; or

20 (ii) in the case of any taxpayer not fil-
21 ing a joint return for such taxable year,
22 \$84,200.

23 (2) EXCEPTION.—The term “eligible indi-
24 vidual” shall not include, with respect to any taxable
25 year ending with or within a calendar year—

- (A) any estate or trust;
- (B) any nonresident alien individual or any alien who is not authorized for employment in the United States; or

(C) any individual who is a dependent for whom a deduction is allowable under section 151 to another taxpayer for such taxable year.

(A) such dollar amount; multiplied by
(B) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section (1)(f)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for the calendar year in which the taxable year begins, by substituting “2018” for “2016” in subparagraph (A)(ii) thereof.

19 (c) APPLICABLE AMOUNT.—

(B) an amount equal to the number of eligible individuals that have filed a Federal income tax return for the taxable year ending with or within such applicable calendar year.

8 (d) TIMING OF PAYMENT.—For purposes of sub-
9 section (a)(3), the Secretary shall disburse such payment
10 as rapidly as possible following the determination of the
11 applicable amount for the calendar year.

12 (e) SPECIAL REBATE FOR TAX YEAR 2018.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after
14 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
15 shall—

(C) disburse a payment equal to the applicable amount to each such eligible individual.

(B) in clause (ii) of such paragraph, by substituting “\$82,500” for “\$84,200”.

12 (3) APPLICABLE AMOUNT.—

(ii) an amount equal to the number of eligible individuals that have filed a Federal income tax return for the taxable year ending with or within calendar year 2018.

(B) ROUNDING.—Any amount determined under subparagraph (A) shall be rounded down to the next whole dollar amount.

1 (f) TARIFF REBATE FUND.—

2 (1) ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.—There is es-
3 tablished in the Treasury a fund to be known as the
4 “Tariff Rebate Fund”, consisting of such amounts
5 as may be transferred to the fund pursuant to para-
6 graph (2), to remain available until expended.

7 (2) TRANSFERS TO FUND.—The Secretary shall
8 transfer to the Tariff Rebate Fund from the general
9 fund of the Treasury an amount equivalent to the
10 amount of duties collected after December 31, 2016,
11 and imposed pursuant to sections 201 and 301 of
12 the Trade Act of 1974 and section 232 of the Trade
13 Expansion Act of 1962.

14 (3) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts in the
15 Tariff Rebate Fund shall be available to the Sec-
16 retary, without further appropriation, to carry out
17 the Tariff Rebate Program (including any provisions
18 under subsection (e)).

