

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—

1 (A) any estate or trust;

2 (B) any nonresident alien individual or any
3 alien who is not authorized for employment in
4 the United States; or

5 (C) any individual who is a dependent for
6 whom a deduction is allowable under section
7 151 to another taxpayer for such taxable year.

8 (3) INFLATION ADJUSTMENT.—In the case of
9 any taxable year beginning after 2019, each dollar
10 amount referred to in paragraph (1)(B) shall be in-
11 creased by an amount equal to—

12 (A) such dollar amount; multiplied by

13 (B) the cost-of-living adjustment deter-
14 mined under section (1)(f)(3) of the Internal
15 Revenue Code of 1986 for the calendar year in
16 which the taxable year begins, by substituting
17 “2018” for “2016” in subparagraph (A)(ii)
18 thereof.

19 (c) APPLICABLE AMOUNT.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under
21 subsection (e), for purposes of this section, the ap-
22 plicable amount shall be an amount equal to the
23 quotient obtained by dividing—

24 (A) the amount described in subsection

25 (a)(1) for the applicable calendar year; by

1 (B) an amount equal to the number of eli-
 2 gible individuals that have filed a Federal in-
 3 come tax return for the taxable year ending
 4 with or within such applicable calendar year.

5 (2) ROUNDING.—Any amount determined under
 6 paragraph (1) shall be rounded down to the next
 7 whole dollar amount.

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—

16 (A) determine the total amount collected
 17 pursuant to duties imposed under sections 201
 18 and 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 and section
 19 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 during
 20 calendar years 2017 and 2018;

21 (B) determine the number of eligible indi-
 22 viduals that have filed a Federal income tax re-
 23 turn for the taxable year ending with or within
 24 calendar year 2018; and

1 (C) disburse a payment equal to the appli-
 2 cable amount to each such eligible individual.

3 (2) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of
 4 this subsection, the term “eligible individual” has
 5 the same meaning given such term under subsection
 6 (b), except that paragraph (1)(B) of such subsection
 7 shall be applied—

8 (A) in clause (i) of such paragraph, by
 9 substituting “\$165,000” for “\$168,400”; and

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

12 (3) APPLICABLE AMOUNT.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this
 14 subsection, the applicable amount shall be an
 15 amount equal to the quotient obtained by divid-
 16 ing—

17 (i) the amount described in paragraph
 18 (1)(A); by

19 (ii) an amount equal to the number of
 20 eligible individuals that have filed a Fed-
 21 eral income tax return for the taxable year
 22 ending with or within calendar year 2018.

23 (B) ROUNDING.—Any amount determined
 24 under subparagraph (A) shall be rounded down
 25 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)).

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