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Concord store carrying European products concerned about long term impact of new tariffs

Emily Glavin, manager and buyer at the Viking House in Concord, was panicked when she heard the news on Wednesday that President Donald Trump would implement a 20% tariff on the European Union.

"It is definitely scary to look at that," Glavin told News 9 in the hours after the announcement. "I had a feeling that there was going to be something. I was hoping that it was going to be capped kind of at the 10%. Today's announcement of 20% definitely came as a shock. It was definitely a lot higher than we were; we're kind of anticipating. So, we've been bracing ourselves for a little bit, but it was definitely a little unexpected."

Glavin has been the manager and the buyer at the Viking House for more than a decade, where they sell gifts, clothes, and food from all over Europe. She has carried the store through COVID-19 and many other tough times, but this is another challenge.

"I'm hoping that we'll be able to work together. I really, well to kind of mitigate the worst of this and maybe split the split the cost. But ultimately, those costs will be passed on to us," Glavin said.

Maintaining relationships with vendors in Europe has been critical to the store's success, Glavin said.

"That is a little bit scary because we have such wonderful relationships with so many companies," she said, adding that she worries there will be some animosity from their European partners. "I also think that there are some countries that, in light of this, might say, you know what? We're good. We're not going to work with you anymore."

For now, Glavin said that their team is going to do everything in their power not to have to pass down higher prices to customers.

"I'm crossing my fingers. It's not too painful, and we sure will appreciate everybody who continues to support us, knowing that this is what we do," she said.