

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

April 12, 2018

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

The Honorable Robert E. Lighthizer
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Secretary Ross and Ambassador Lighthizer,

We write in regards to your pending final determinations on the countervailing duty investigation and antidumping investigation of imports of uncoated groundwood paper from Canada. Before issuing your final determinations, we urge you to consider the potential negative impact that any trade remedy would have on the U.S. newspaper industry, commercial printing industries, and the overall U.S. paper manufacturing industry.

The U.S. newspaper publishing and commercial printing sector still employs more than 600,000 people across the country. The printing industry alone is an \$82 billion industry in the U.S. and still employs approximately 450,000 people. Our printers and paper manufacturers that supply the U.S. are part of an integrated supply chain that supports a mailing industry that is part of the backbone of the U.S. economy. An Envelope Manufacturers jobs study concluded that this supply chain employs 7.5 million people in the U.S.

It is no secret that over the past decade plus there has been a large shift toward digital alternatives to printed products by consumers and advertisers. As a result, it is not a surprise that demand for North American newsprint has declined substantially. Therefore, uncoated groundwood paper demand has been in steady decline in the U. S. and Canada. But, it is clear that issues related to uncoated groundwood paper are a direct result of market erosion and not unfair trade.

Small towns across Missouri and the country still depend on their local newspapers, and in many cases, their yellow pages. Before issuing your final determinations, please recognize the hundreds of thousands of American jobs associated with the domestic newspaper, printing, and paper manufacturing industries. Also, please consider the importance of the local news lifeline for small communities.

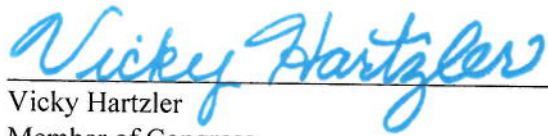


Sincere regards,

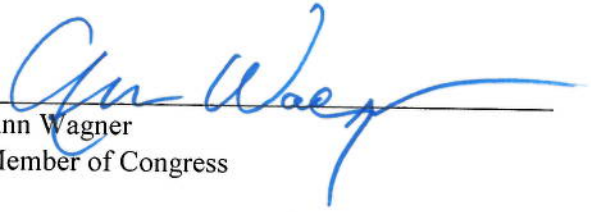


Roy Blunt
United States Senator

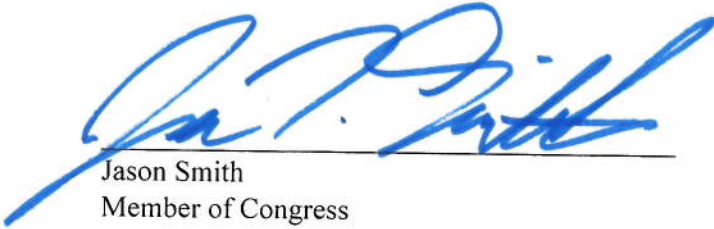
Billy Long
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress



Ann Wagner
Member of Congress



Jason Smith
Member of Congress



Sam Graves
Member of Congress