



April 11, 2018

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

RE: Investigation Nos. C-122-862 and A-122-861

Dear Secretary Ross:

As an association that supports business development and growth in South Carolina, we were concerned to learn that the U.S. Department of Commerce has imposed preliminary duties on uncoated groundwood paper from Canada, a commodity that is so critical to publishers and printers in South Carolina, and across the U.S.

Since year 2000, North American newsprint demand has declined by over 75 percent. In fact, since 2007, 78 paper machines in North America producing uncoated groundwood paper were either closed or converted to produce other paper grades. Forty-nine of those machine closures were in Canada.

This continuing trend leads us to believe that as the supply of newsprint contracts in North America, newspaper publishers and printers in the U.S. – those that depend on this grade for their livelihood – will find it increasingly difficult to procure enough to support their business. There is currently not enough production capacity in the U.S. to fill current demand, and if the supply diminishes because publishers and printers are not willing to pay more for their paper, or because producers in Canada choose to sell their paper to other trade partners, where will this paper come from?

South Carolina is home to nearly 65 newspaper publications and a host of additional commercial printers, as well as nearly 13,000 individuals employed at 11 pulp and paper manufacturing facilities in the state. The U.S. newspaper publishing sector employs 175,000 people in locations across the United States and the U.S. commercial printing sector employs another 425,000 individuals. Alternatively, the petitioner in this case, NORPAC, currently employs 260 people at just one mill located in the Pacific Northwest.

We have a vested interest in the health of the publishing, printing and paper manufacturing industries in South Carolina, and fear these proposed tariffs could severely threaten their livelihood. When Commerce issues final determinations later this year, it should protect thousands of jobs in South Carolina, as well as hundreds of thousands of jobs in multiple industries in the U.S., and reject these trade sanctions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Sara Hazzard'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Sara Hazzard
President and Chief Executive Officer

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