



May 8, 2018

Office of the Governor
P. O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senate
517 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ted Cruz
United States Senate
Dirksen Senate Office Bldg., Ste. 185
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Randy Weber
United States House of Representatives
510 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Greetings Governor Abbott, Senator Cornyn, Senator Cruz and Congressman Weber,

On behalf of the Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce we are asking for your support in opposing the recent tariffs against uncoated groundwood. These tariffs could wipe out hundreds, if not thousands, of newspapers across the nation. The Galveston County Daily News, the Chamber's first and oldest member, and its tens of thousands of daily readers urgently need your help. The Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce is a membership organization which advances the business interests of its members, making Galveston Island a premier location to live, work, play and do business. Since our establishment in 1845, our mission is to promote and advocate for business and community development.

The Daily News has served Galveston County for over 175 years. They currently contribute millions of dollars in direct payroll into our communities, directly or indirectly provide hundreds of good paying jobs, and play an important role in the local commerce of our communities. And the recent tariffs, some proposed as high as 50%, are going to dangerously threaten the future of community newspapers.

The Daily News is a modest business with modest margins and limited access to capital. They also work to invest in our community, shop locally, and support community events from Lemonade Day Galveston County

to donations to non-profits and take pride in giving back to our community. These recent tariffs, however, may change this forever.

This event is all due to a single New York investment firm asking for tariffs on behalf of its singular paper producing investment. The paper industry itself – other printers and paper producers – oppose the tariffs. Even if The Daily News wanted to exclusively purchase domestic newsprint, 75% of all newsprint supply originates from Canada. The tariffs' action is designed to drive newsprint consumers to a single domestic mill at sky high rates. There is not enough domestic supply nor capacity to go around.

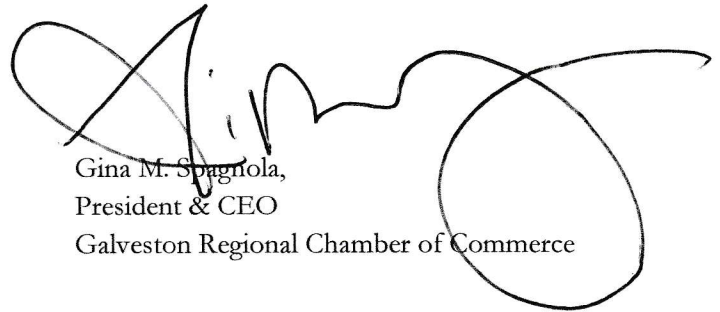
Yes, this is a disaster in the making.

The Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce and The Daily News are not opposed to fair trade, but to jeopardize an entire industry for the sake of single player is a dangerous game. Please step in and help both The Daily News and thousands of other smaller newspapers across the nation before a catastrophe of historic nature occurs across America.

Sincerely,



Fred D. Raschke,
Chair of the Board of Directors
Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce



Gina M. Spagnola,
President & CEO
Galveston Regional Chamber of Commerce

cc: Chamber of Commerce of the United States
1615 H Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20062-2000

International Trade Commission
500 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20436

Texas Association of Business
1209 Nueces Street
Austin, Texas 78701