

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 4, 2018

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary of Commerce
United States Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Ross,

We write in regards to the pending antidumping and countervailing duty case involving imports of uncoated groundwood paper from Canada. We are extremely concerned about the proposed tariffs and the effect they may have on Florida's economy and public discourse. As you know, only one domestic producer of uncoated groundwood paper filed a grievance against Canadian imports, discounting the adverse impact such a move could have on the larger economy, particularly the newspaper industry—the primary consumer of uncoated groundwood paper.

The severity of the tariffs, ranging from a combined total of 28.25 to 32.09 percent, could eviscerate the newspaper industry and dry up demand for the product, making it harder for domestic newsprint paper producers to stay afloat.

Unfortunately, the proposed tariffs are already starting to have an effect—being factored into pricing in anticipation of a final decision on the matter, with one local paper in Florida having to lay off 50 people to cover the added cost. That number will only grow and metastasize as profit margins shrink and newsrooms shutter. At a time when credible and responsible reporting is needed most, a devastating new tax on the newspaper industry would be a grave mistake.

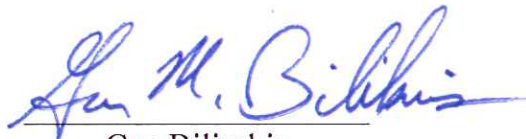
Not only would the tariffs cause severe economic turmoil in Florida and across the country, but they would also make it harder for the public to get the information needed to sustain a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Therefore, we respectfully ask that you take these concerns into consideration when making a final decision on the matter. Thank you for your time and attention.

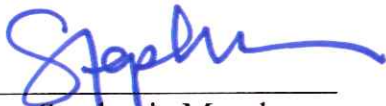


Bill Nelson

Sincerely,



Gus Bilirakis



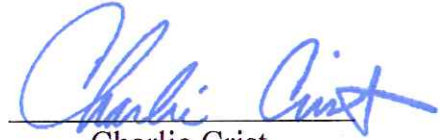
Stephanie Murphy



Dennis A. Ross




Darren Soto



Charlie Crist



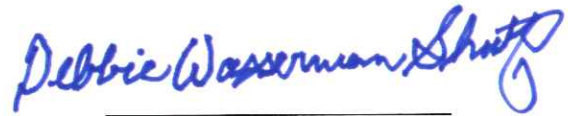
Frederica Wilson



Kathy Castor



Alcee L. Hastings



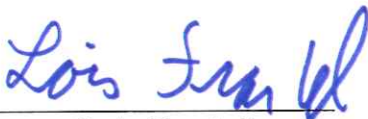
Debbie Wasserman Schultz



Al Lawson



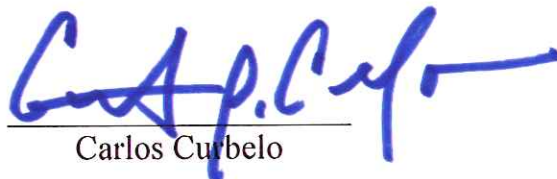
Ted Deutch



Lois Frankel



Val Demings



Carlos Curbelo