

**HON. LOUIE GOHMERT**  
FIRST DISTRICT, TEXAS



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JUDICIARY

NATURAL RESOURCES

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 15, 2018

Hon. Wilbur Ross  
Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Hon. Robert E. Lighthizer  
U.S. Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> St., NW  
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Secretary Ross and Ambassador Lighthizer,

Representatives from numerous newspapers in my district have reached out expressing concerns regarding the Commerce Department's preliminary determination to impose tariffs on imports of uncoated groundwood paper from Canada. On behalf of the newspapers in east Texas, please carefully consider the damage done to our newspapers if these tariffs are imposed permanently.

The concerns of the constituent newspapers are a matter of staying in business or closing their doors and arise from two duties on newsprint imposed in recent months. In January of this year, the Commerce Department placed a preliminary duty on producers and exporters of uncoated groundwood paper from Canada that ranges from 4.42 percent to 9.93 percent of wholesale price. In March, Commerce imposed a preliminary anti-dumping duty of 22.16 percent for some Canadian producers and exporters.

Many newspapers and third-party printers import a large share of their newsprint from Canada. Because of this, newspapers in my district are noting that these preliminary duties are already impacting their business. They are operating on a tight budget, and fear that rising newsprint prices due to these duties could close their businesses that perform such a very vital function in our communities and cities.

Protecting American jobs, and promoting the use of American lumber and newsprint is extremely important. If you gave incentives to American timber, that would be far preferable to destroying such a critical community service. Please consider incentivizing American lumber rather than placing duties on the cheaper Canadian newsprint.

We would implore the Department of Commerce not only to prevent such tariffs from becoming permanent, but ending them now before it is too late. Please examine incentives to U.S. timber and newsprint as a more effective alternative.

With kindest regards, I am

Very Truly Yours,

Louie Gohmert  
U.S. Congressman

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