

JACK BERGMAN
1ST DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2201

WASHINGTON, DC OFFICE
414 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4735

TRAVERSE CITY OFFICE
1396 DOUGLAS DRIVE, SUITE 22B
TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49696
(231) 944-7633

MARQUETTE OFFICE
1500 W. WASHINGTON STREET, SUITE 2
MARQUETTE, MI 49855
(906) 273-2227

July 16, 2018

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington D.C. 20230

The Honorable David Johanson
Chairman
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20436

Re: Investigation 701-TA-584 and 731-TA-1382 (Final)

Dear Chairman Johanson and Commissioners:

The purpose of this letter is to convey my opposition to the tariffs on imported Canadian newsprint for use by publishers and printers in the United States.

Michigan is home to nearly 450 daily and weekly news publications, and almost 11,500 individuals employed at 17 pulp and paper manufacturing facilities throughout the state. The U.S. newspaper publishing and commercial printing sectors employs hundreds of thousands across the country, and tariffs, in this specific instance, would be detrimental to the entire supply chain.

Newsprint is typically made and sold on a regional basis; meaning, if it is produced in mid to Eastern Canada, it does not compete with newsprint manufactured on the West Coast. Additionally, the limited supply of newsprint production in the U.S. – only five mills domestically produce this grade of paper – is barely enough to fill the needs of today's publishers. Canadian newsprint is critical to supply the needs of today's publishers because it is unlikely paper manufacturers will invest in a massive expansion of U.S. newsprint production.

There are clear negative consequences should the Commission decide to make these trade sanctions permanent. Newsprint producers, including NORPAC, will face an accelerated decline in demand for newsprint that will harm the competitiveness of these operations, publishers will find it difficult to compensate for the rising cost of newsprint and will be caught without a dependable supply, and communities risk losing their hometown newspaper.

It is my hope that the Commission will view this decision with consideration to all sectors impacted by the outcome, and make a decision that will protect the integrity of the U.S. paper industry.

Sincerely,



Jack Bergman
Member of Congress