

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 16, 2018

The Honorable David S. Johanson
Chairman
United States International Trade Commission
500 E. Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20436

Dear Chairman Johanson:

As the International Trade Commission (ITC) prepares to take its final vote on an antidumping and countervailing duty order on uncoated groundwood paper from Canada (Investigation Nos. 701-TA-584 and 731-TA-1382), we ask you to consider the very negative impact these tariffs will have on the newspaper industry and the public in Virginia and across the United States.

We support efforts to fight illegal trade practices and guarantee a level playing field for American companies. However, we are concerned the tariffs on uncoated groundwood paper from Canada will cause long-term harm to domestic newsprint manufacturers and consumers. There are nearly 200 daily and weekly newspapers in Virginia. An increase of up to 35 percent in costs due to these tariffs cannot be absorbed by newspapers and printers; current tariffs are already reducing the frequency and size of publication for many newspapers. This leads to higher prices for readers, businesses and advertisers and is already causing a loss of jobs in the printing and publishing industry at the local level. If these tariffs become permanent, these harmful trends will become ever more pronounced.

Local newsgathering is also jeopardized by these tariffs, which is where so many small Virginia communities will be affected: they rely heavily on their local papers for coverage, and those papers are already struggling to operate on razor-thin margins. Our democracy cannot function unless citizens are informed and engaged; without strong community newspapers, that kind of engagement would be vastly more difficult.

Because of the serious impact of these tariffs on Virginia print newspapers and newspapers across the United States, we urge you to carefully consider the wider ramifications as you make your final determination. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



A. Donald McEachin
Member of Congress



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



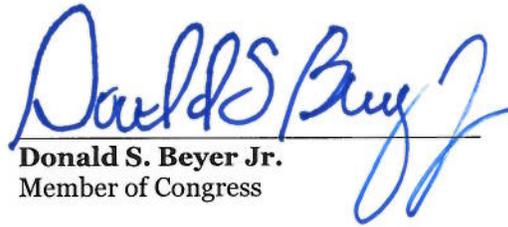
Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Member of Congress



Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress



Barbara Comstock
Member of Congress