

18-059070

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Congress of the United States
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A-122-861;
C-122-862
Investigations
Public Document
ADCVD OpsII: AS

The Honorable Wilbur L. Ross, Jr.
Secretary of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

January 4, 2018

Dear Secretary Ross:

I write to you today to express my concern with the antidumping and countervailing duty investigation into the import of uncoated groundwood paper from Canada, including imported newsprint. I urge you to consider the devastating impact any trade remedy would have on the US newspaper industry.

Over the past decade, there has been a well-documented industry wide shift toward digital media from newsprint as a source for information and news. Decline in newspaper circulation, readership, and increased internet competition has all contributed to the 50% reduction in demand for newsprint. The petitioner's assertion that the decline in the newsprint industry is solely a trade related issue is misguided. The proposed duties would destabilize the industry - forcing newspapers to raise subscription and advertising prices, reduce the amount of total print pages or reduce staff to account for increased production costs. I am also concerned that that impact of the proposed duties would result in a marked decrease in civil discourse, particularly in areas of New York where high speed internet access is unfortunately not yet universally available.

While there are many legitimate instances where U.S. industry needs to be protected from foreign producers - this is not one of them. The petitioner's charge is in fact opposed by the American Forest and Paper Association, which represents the broader U.S. paper industry.

Often times, our local newspapers remain the only source of information available to all the members of our communities regardless of access to internet or cable. The result of this duty would cause an undue burden. It would limit the availability of information and undermines our values to uphold a free and accessible press. Local journalism is the core of our communities' access to information about their local government, economy, and community activities and it bolsters our commitment to civic engagement and values. It should not be infringed upon by the claims of a single US producer.

A trade remedy would be detrimental to the U.S. newspaper industry and the communities they serve. I respectfully urge you to weigh this significantly as you continue to deliberate.

Sincerely,

Rep. Brian Higgins

Missouri Johnson, Marcellina (Federal)

From: Rankin, Alex (Federal)
Sent: Friday, January 05, 2018 8:54 AM
To: Missouri Johnson, Marcellina (Federal); Jones, Sarah (Federal)
Subject: FW: Letter to Secretary Ross
Attachments: 1.4.2018 Letter to Secretary Ross.pdf

Marcy and Sarah,

Please see attached a new letter to the Secretary.

Thanks
Alex

From: Lenihan, Brian (Federal)
Sent: Thursday, January 04, 2018 5:17 PM
To: Rankin, Alex (Federal) <ARankin@doc.gov>
Cc: Platt, Mike (Federal) <MPlatt@doc.gov>
Subject: Fwd: Letter to Secretary Ross

Please Process in DBD

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Williams, Kayla" <Kayla.Williams@mail.house.gov>
Date: January 4, 2018 at 5:12:38 PM EST
To: "BLenihan@doc.gov" <BLenihan@doc.gov>
Subject: Letter to Secretary Ross

Hello,

Please see attached letter to Secretary Ross from Representative Brian Higgins.

Best,
Kayla

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