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A-122-861;  
C-122-862  
Investigations  
Public Document  
ADCVD OpsII: AS

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

The Honorable Robert E. Lighthizer  
United States Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> St. NW  
Washington, DC 20508

RE: Investigations 701-TA-584 and 731-TA-1382

Dear Secretary Ross and Ambassador Lighthizer,

I am writing to you today to express my concern with the pending antidumping and countervailing duty investigations into the import of uncoated groundwood paper from Canada, including newsprint and other commercial printing papers. As you investigate this issue, I urge you to consider the impact that any trade remedy would have on the U.S. newspaper and commercial printing industries as a whole, as well as the overall U.S. paper manufacturing industry.

The U.S. newspaper publishing and commercial printing sector employs more than 600,000 people in locations across the country. By contrast, the petitioner (NORPAC) that seeks government intervention and interference in the market employs approximately 260 personnel at one mill. Thousands of paper manufacturing jobs in the U.S. are put at risk by this petition.

NORPAC is an outlier in the paper industry, having no additional pulp or paper operations. In contrast, the majority of U.S. newsprint manufacturers, and even the national trade association for the industry, the American Forest and Paper Association, as well as its major U.S. customers, oppose NORPAC's petitions. U.S. producers, printers, and the consuming public would be harmed by the market-distorting imposition of duties.

During the last decade, there has been a well-documented shift toward digital alternatives to printed products. Accordingly, there has been decreased demand for newsprint in the U.S. given the structural shift in media and advertising. Notwithstanding the decline in demand, people in small towns across the country still depend on their local newspapers. These petitions threaten to put those newspapers out of business and cut off rural American from their local news.

Newspaper publishers have also seen a significant decrease in advertising revenue, and as a result, it is unlikely they could afford the increase in cost associated with antidumping or countervailing duties. Trade sanctions will also hurt U.S. manufacturers of groundwood paper and their employees, since the fall in demand will also lead to an even faster decline in jobs.

Simply put, market erosion, not unfair trade, is causing today's competitive turmoil and job losses in the newsprint and commercial printing sectors. I urge you to keep these points in mind as you deliberate this issue.

Sincerely,



Steve Russell  
Member of Congress

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