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16TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEES  
BUDGET  
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE  
TRANSPORTATION AND  
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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-3816

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

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

Dear Secretary Ross and Chairman Johanson,

Thank you for your ongoing attention to the trade investigation of imported uncoated groundwood paper from Canada. As both the Department of Commerce (Commerce) and the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) conduct the final phase of investigations, I strongly encourage you to take into consideration the negative effects that final antidumping and countervailing duties will have on the domestic printing and publishing industries.

Printing and publishing companies within Pennsylvania's 16<sup>th</sup> Congressional District rely on imported uncoated groundwood paper from Canada. Moreover, their business operations have already been negatively impacted by the preliminary duties ranging as high as 32 percent. Since the preliminary duties were issued in September 2017, newsprint prices have increased by more than 20 percent. Significant increases in production costs will be yet another challenge for newspapers trying to stay in business.

While I support the Administration's efforts to ensure a level playing field for American workers and businesses, I strongly encourage you to take into consideration the impact that this trade investigation will have on all industries. The domestic printing and publishing industries employ more than 600,000 Americans and have already been negatively financially affected by these actions. American newspapers have had to lay off employees and reduce operations because of increased newsprint costs from the preliminary duties. Moreover, this trade decision will likely have a negative ripple effect on domestic industries supported by the printing and publishing industries such as advertising, transportation, and local businesses.

Small and rural newspapers are the primary users of newsprint and will be the hardest hit. Rural communities with limited access to cable and high-speed internet rely on local newspapers as their primary source of information. These smaller newspaper companies have struggled the most under increased operational costs, declines in advertisement revenue, and reductions in readership. Many of these newspaper companies will be unable to survive or be forced to reduce their services should these duties increase or remain in effect.

I respectfully request that you carefully and fully consider the negative impact that final antidumping and countervailing duties would have on the domestic printing and publishing industries. Imposing steep duties on uncoated groundwood paper would threaten the health of these domestic industries and the dissemination of information to millions of Americans. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



Lloyd Smucker  
Member of Congress