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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0916

May 29, 2018

Rhonda Schnare Schmidlein
Chairman
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20436

Dear Ms. Schmidlein:

I am writing to express strong concerns about the impact of the Department of Commerce's recently announced countervailing and anti-dumping duties on Canadian imports of newsprint on the newspaper industry and jobs in the United States.

The duties, as high as 32 percent on uncoated groundwood paper, threaten American newspapers, printers, and the American pulp and paper industry, putting tens of thousands of jobs at risk, and harming the small and rural communities across the country that rely on local, printed newspapers.

Newspapers and printers have experienced increases in production costs of roughly 30 percent. Newspapers unable to absorb the costs are considering laying off workers, reducing the amount of news and information that is published, and passing the costs onto readers and businesses.

These tariffs sought by one small paper mill owned by a venture capital firm is threatening the viability of local newspapers and putting thousands of American jobs at risk. Others in the paper industry oppose the petitions because of their impact on newspapers and printers, which will lead to a reduction in the demand for newsprint.

In my congressional district, the Herald Tribune Media Group Publisher Patrick Dorsey and his parent company, Gate House Media are requesting that these unwarranted tariffs be suspended. Please give fair consideration to their request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Vern Buchanan".

Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress

VB/sd