

# United States Senate

April 25, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Ross:

I am writing in response to the Commerce Department's investigation into imports of uncoated groundwood paper from Canada. I urge you to take into account the challenges faced by domestic newsprint customers, including those in my home state of Alabama, as you continue your investigation.

Combatting unfair trade practices and ensuring a level playing field for American businesses are goals that I share with President Trump and the Administration. I am concerned though in the case of tariffs on uncoated groundwood paper that the harm for American consumers will far outweigh the good.

Demand for newsprint in the United States has declined steeply in recent years and newsprint production has fallen as a result. Domestic newsprint production cannot meet the demands of American publishers. Small publishers, like weekly papers that serve rural areas, are particularly vulnerable to changes in newsprint price or supply. These papers can't afford to pay higher prices for newsprint and many will be forced to close their doors and lay off employees if the current temporary tariffs and countervailing duties continue to be imposed.

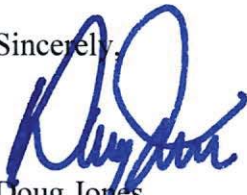
These papers are an important part of the communities they serve. They report on local events that are not always covered in larger papers, are an affordable way for local businesses to advertise to customers, and in general create a sense of community for their readers.

This is why a cross section of domestic newsprint manufacturers and consumers, as well as the American Forest and Paper Association, National Newspaper Association, and News Media Alliance oppose the additional penalties that are currently being imposed.

I urge you to take the plight of Alabama's newspapers and those across the country into account as the Department of Commerce concludes its investigation.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,



Doug Jones  
United States Senator