

18-061127

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# Congress of the United States House of Representatives

May 8, 2017

A-122-861;  
C-122-862  
Investigations  
Public Document  
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U.S. EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT  
2018 JUL -9 AM 9:05

Secretary Wilbur L. Ross, Jr.  
U.S Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC. 20230

Dear Secretary Ross,

Constituents in Alabama Congressional District 5 have expressed concern to me that these antidumping and countervailing duties on paper products (particularly paper used by newspapers) will cause more harm to American businesses and consumers than good.

Like President Trump, I favor an "America First" trade stance that is good for America. However, many newspapers in my district complaint to me that they are being forced to buy American-made newsprint at considerably higher prices that, over the long haul, put their businesses (and the newspaper industry) at risk as their operating costs rise as a result of these tariffs.

I ask you to consider the challenges faced by domestic newsprint customers as you continue your investigation into imports of uncoated groundwood paper from Canada.

Local newspapers in the United States are institutions that bind communities together. These small businesses operate in an already challenging environment as they work to embrace our digital world. However, the majority of these local business' revenues continue to be derived from print – especially in rural areas like my home district of Northeast Alabama.

For example, in Scottsboro, Alabama, the Jackson County Sentinel is a print house that produces nine small newspapers in the region, thereby serving numerous Tennessee Valley communities. Even though they purchase their newsprint from a domestic mill in Grenada, Mississippi, their costs have rise significantly since the implementation of temporary duties on Canadian paper products.

Before the duties were imposed, their costs were less than \$600 for one ton of newsprint. They are now paying nearly \$800 for one ton of the same American-made newsprint, and have been told to expect future orders at \$1,100 per ton. Furthermore, their supplier has been unable to timely deliver on schedule because of the shock to America's market supply.

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As you know is the case with any business, when production costs go up, either revenue must similarly rise or some aspect of operation expenses must be cut. In the case of the Jackson County Sentinel, it is very difficult to increase revenue (newspapers are already under tremendous pressure from the internet), so three employment positions have been eliminated, costing people jobs.

Stated differently, paper tariffs on Canadian product have directly cost three jobs at a facility in Jackson County, Alabama, that buys American-made paper. I suspect, but do not know, that this lost jobs scenario is being played out all over America, and threaten to continue and perhaps even get worse.

Another burdensome factor is that demand for newsprint in the United States has declined in recent years (again, the internet as a news source) and newsprint production has fallen as a result. Many U.S. mills have converted from newsprint production to make cardboard shipping boxes and packaging for internet retailers. As a result, domestic newsprint production alone can no longer meet the demands of American publishers.

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 ask you to consider the adverse impact of profits lost, wages suppressed, and jobs eliminated as you wrestle with how to best deal with Canada's alleged, improper subsidies of Canadian paper product.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mo Brooks".

Mo Brooks, M.C., AL-5

## Missouri Johnson, Marcellina (Federal)

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**From:** Williams, Allaire (Federal)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 09, 2018 12:19 AM  
**To:** Missouri Johnson, Marcellina (Federal)  
**Subject:** Fwd: Letter to Secretary Ross  
**Attachments:** Letter to Secretary Wilbur L Ross, Jr. .pdf; ATT00001.htm

FYI

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Curtis, Remington (Federal)" <[RCurtis@doc.gov](mailto:RCurtis@doc.gov)>  
**Date:** May 8, 2018 at 6:11:24 PM EDT  
**To:** "Williams, Allaire (Federal)" <[AWilliams2@doc.gov](mailto:AWilliams2@doc.gov)>, "Platt, Mike (Federal)" <[MPlatt@doc.gov](mailto:MPlatt@doc.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Letter to Secretary Ross

Hi All, please see attached. Many thanks, Remm

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**From:** Decker, Brad [<mailto:Brad.Decker@mail.house.gov>]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 08, 2018 4:11 PM  
**To:** Curtis, Remington (Federal) <[RCurtis@doc.gov](mailto:RCurtis@doc.gov)>  
**Subject:** Letter to Secretary Ross

Good afternoon,

Please see attachment for letter from Congressman Mo Brooks addressed to Secretary Wilbur Ross.

Thank you,

**Brad Decker**  
Legislative Correspondent  
Congressman Mo Brooks AL-05  
2400 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-4801