

18-061800

Barcode:3736918-01 A-122-861 INV - Investigation -



MAC THORNBERRY
13TH DISTRICT
TEXAS

ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives
June 4, 2018

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 20230-0001

Dear Secretary Ross,

I am contacting you on behalf of my constituent, Ms. Laurie Ezzell Brown, who is the publisher of The Canadian RECORD. Ms. Brown has concerns about the tariffs on newsprint imports. I have heard similar concerns from several papers within my district. Within your rules and regulations, I respectfully ask that you give the enclosed request your full consideration.

Sincerely,

Mac Thornberry
Member of Congress

WMT/MS
Enclosure

2018 JUN 15 PM 3:10
U.S. EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

RECEIVED MAY 14 2018

The Canadian **RECORD**

ESTABLISHED IN 1893

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

806.323.6461 (Office)

211 Main St.

806.323.5738 (Fax)

P.O. Box 898

Canadian, TX 79014-0898

U.S. Representative Mac Thornberry
620 South Taylor Street, Suite 200
Amarillo, TX 79101-3541

re: Newsprint Tariffs

May 11, 2018

Congressman Thornberry,

I am seeking your intervention on behalf of community newspapers like mine around this state and across the country that are fighting today for survival against a number of grave threats. The most recent—and perhaps the most formidable—threat is the Commerce Department's imposition of tariffs on Canadian newsprint shipments into the United States.

Those tariffs have had an immediate and onerous impact on both the cost and the reliable availability of newsprint. Most of the newsprint used in U.S. newspapers today is manufactured in Canada. Newsprint mills in both the U.S. and Canada have either closed or converted to other paper products in the past decade, as digital commerce has cut into demand for advertising and print readership in larger daily newspapers.

But for weekly and small daily newspapers in smaller towns, the demand for paper has fallen less dramatically. Readers in our communities still expect and cherish a printed newspaper to hold in their hands, to share with their families and friends, and to provide clippings for their scrapbooks.

Newsprint tariffs place in immediate peril our ability, not only to inform and educate the public, but also to protect and sustain our very livelihoods, and those of our employees. In so doing, they also jeopardize the well-being of the citizens we serve, who continue to rely on our coverage of local news and events, and of the decisions and actions of their local governmental representatives, to remain aware and informed.

In January 2018, our printing prices rose 10 percent. Just last week, I was informed that our printer has already experienced six consecutive hikes in newsprint prices, and that another dramatic increase in our printing rates is imminent. In an economy struggling with the long-term impact of drought, wildfires and the ongoing oil and gas production downturn, those costs are difficult, if not impossible, to offset.

The Canadian Record has served Canadian and Hemphill County since 1893. We are a well-respected, independently-owned newspaper, which has been edited and published by the Ezzell family since 1948. On a weekly basis, we honor our commitment to report the news without fear or favor, to readers throughout this community and this region.

www.canadianrecord.com / editor@canadianrecord.com

Our staff of six dedicated employees works long hours for modest salaries. They support their families, shop locally, pay their taxes, contribute both time and treasure to local nonprofits, vote in every election and are an integral part of this community's life. Despite declines in population, a shifting demographic, and a diminished retail base, we each continue to do the work we honor and love, believing that our community is healthier and stronger, as a result.

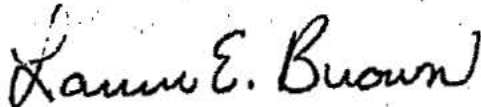
The newsprint tariff poses an immediate danger to our jobs, our business and our service—and to community newspapers like ours around the state and country—at a time when there is an increasingly urgent need for reliable, fact-based reporting, and a better-informed and educated public.

The tariff benefits the few—a single U.S. newsprint manufacturer employing 260—at a cost to more than 600,000 Americans employed in the publishing and commercial printing sector around the country, and at a greater cost, I believe, to democracy itself.

I would be happy to answer any questions, and to provide any additional information that might be helpful to you in this matter. I respectfully, and with some urgency, ask your support for these community newspapers in this battle for survival. As a member and officer of the Texas Press Association, I hope you will consider writing a letter on our behalf, expressing your concern regarding the Commerce Department's imposition of tariffs on the import of Canadian newsprint.

I look forward to hearing from you on this important issue. My thanks to you for your dedicated service to the citizens of this region and this nation.

Best,



Laurie Ezzell Brown, Editor and Publisher