



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

July 9, 2018

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

Dear Secretary Ross,

I write to you in regards to the pending final determinations on the countervailing duty investigation and antidumping investigation of imports of uncoated groundwood paper from Canada, including imported newsprint. Before issuing your final determinations, we strongly urge you to consider the adverse impact that imposing such trade remedies would have on the U.S. newspaper industry, commercial printing industries, and the overall domestic paper manufacturing industry.

With a significant shift from print to digital media nationwide over the past decade, both by advertisers and consumers of the news, there has been less demand for newsprint. In fact, over the last decade, the demand for newsprint across North America has dropped by more than 75 percent since 2000. Equally concerning, the United States printed news industry has already experienced a 50 percent decline in advertising revenues over the past 10 years. These decisions on imported newsprint would exacerbate this trend.

I am particularly concerned about the small towns across Ohio that depend on their local newspapers. These small publishers, which are important staples within their communities, would not be able to absorb additional costs. Many would need to raise prices on readers and advertisers, cut back on their distribution network, and reduce their workforce. These decisions have the potential to put many small-market newspapers out of business. Therefore, I again urge you to recognize these impacts before issuing your final determinations.

Sincerely,

Rep. Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

Cc: Chairman David S. Johanson, U.S. International Trade Commission

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