

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

JAMES P. HOFFA
General President

25 Louisiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001



KEN HALL
General Secretary-Treasurer

202.624.6800
www.teamster.org

March 8, 2018

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

On behalf of the Teamsters and in solidarity with the Steelworkers, I commend your administration for its analysis of global steel and aluminum over-production, the threat to the industrial capacity on which our national security depends, and your bold action in imposing tariffs under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act. Your Commerce Department conducted a full investigation and determined that steel and aluminum imports are “weakening our internal economy” and therefore undermining our national security, and this week you are doing something about it. This is the way trade policy should work.

My only concern is that this overdue action could undermine the progress that the Ambassador is making in rebalancing the NAFTA. The Teamsters represent more than 100,000 Canadian workers who depend on trade for their livelihoods, especially in North American supply chains. We know that Canada is not the problem – from a national security perspective, the U.S. has no greater ally.

Therefore, the Teamsters recommend that Canada be permanently exempt from these tariffs, but with one important string attached – the Trudeau government must cooperate with the U.S. to address global overcapacity and not let Canada become a transshipment way station for cheap Chinese steel.

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Our steel and aluminum industries have been under attack for too long. We stand ready to work with the administration and with other North American unions to defend and to describe how implementation of these tariffs will protect American workers and our national security.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James P. Hoffa". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James P. Hoffa
General President

JPH/md

cc: Secretary Wilbur Ross, Department of Commerce
Ambassador Robert Lighthizer, United States Trade Representative
President François Laporte, Teamsters Canada