

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

JAMES P. HOFFA
General President

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Washington, DC 20001



KEN HALL
General Secretary-Treasurer

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June 20, 2018

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary
Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Ross:

On behalf of our 1.2 Million members, and especially the 30,000 Teamsters in our Graphic Communications Conference (GCC) in the U.S. and Canada, I am writing to convey our concerns about the current countervailing duty and anti-dumping investigations related to uncoated groundwood paper from Canada. Our GCC members work in all craft and skill areas in the printing and publishing industry, which is already hurting due to automation and technology, and many of their employers will not be able to absorb the significant additional costs in newsprint if the proposed tariffs are assessed.

For example, Teamsters GCC District Council 3 has contracts with fifteen newspapers in the Midwest. Those community papers will not be able to pass on the tariff-induced cost increases to their customers or advertisers. By our analysis, this proposed tariff could affect hundreds of Teamster families within District Council 3 and threaten tens of thousands more jobs across the country among the pressman, mailers and drivers who are proud Teamster members in the North American printing and publishing industries.

I take this opportunity to remind you that I and the leadership of the Teamsters union support the other recent investigations and controversial tariffs that this Administration has undertaken and assessed – namely, the new tariffs on steel and aluminum that you imposed after your thorough investigation under Section 232, as well as your strategic tariffs on Chinese goods under Section 301.

The Honorable Wilbur Ross

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I have attached my recent letter to President Trump endorsing the 232 tariffs and suggesting a permanent exemption for Canada. My point is that we are generally supportive of your Department's investigations and the appropriate remedies that you have levied; however, in this situation, we hope that the ITC investigation will not lead to new tariffs on groundwood paper from Canada.

Accordingly, I urge you to use your discretion and revisit the narrow support of the domestic paper industry for this petition and, instead, consider the potential adverse effect to small and medium sized publications throughout the country and their workers, our members, before concluding these investigations. Thanking you in advance for your consideration of these issues, I remain,

Respectfully Yours,

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/mfd

Enclosure

cc: George Tedeschi, President, IBT Graphic Communications Conference
Francois Laporte, President, Teamsters Canada