

# 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](http://www.teamster.org)

July 11, 2018

The Honorable David Johanson  
Chairman, International Trade Commission  
500 E Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20436

Dear Chairman Johanson:

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 David Johanson

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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 with a large initial "J".

James P. Hoffa  
General President

JPH/mfd

Enclosure

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

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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 style with a large, stylized "J" and "H".

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