



Pacific NorthWest Economic Region

2017 - 2018 PNWER Executive Committee

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May 2, 2018

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary,

On behalf of the Pacific NorthWest Economic Region Executive Committee, we are writing to oppose U.S. tariffs on newsprint from Canada. Tariffs will hurt, not help, the newsprint and newspaper business in the U.S.

Preliminary anti-dumping and countervailing duties on Canadian imports of uncoated groundwood paper (UGW) coming into the U.S. is threatening jobs on both sides of the border. UGW paper is used for newsprint, directories, book publishing, and circulars. These tariffs are causing harm across the newspaper industry through increased costs for all printing operations and job loss. The tariffs increase overall cost burdens on an already struggling industry impacted by market forces.

Since 2000, the demand for newsprint in North America has declined by 75 percent. Daily and weekly newspapers have severely scaled back production or closed due to less demand for printed material. Simultaneously, the newsprint industry in the U.S. has shifted to manufacturing other paper goods like boxes or shipping materials instead of newsprint. This shift has forced publishers to find new options for sourcing newsprint, with the majority importing their paper from Canada.

Opposition to the duties is coming from over 1,100 newspaper companies in the United States, numerous Members of Congress from both parties, and even the American Forest and Paper Association. Producers have already alerted U.S. buyers that they would have to pass along the full burden of the tariffs. The newspaper industry employs over 150,000 Americans, which is about 276,000, or 65 percent, fewer than two decades ago. Increased paper cost will erode jobs in an industry that is already in decline.

Tariffs on long standing economic partners often result in many unintended consequences and have long lasting negative implications such as higher prices and the loss of jobs on both sides of the border.

Printers and publishers are not able to absorb these increased costs and may be forced to lay off workers, cut production, print fewer pages, and shift more of their content and subscribers to digital platforms. Permanently imposing tariffs would be the wrong choice for the United States.

Sincerely,



Sen. Arnie Roblan
PNWER President 2017-2018
Oregon State Legislature



Matt Morrison
Chief Executive Officer
PNWER