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June 7th, 2018

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

The Honorable Robert E. Lighthizer
U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Secretary Ross and Ambassador Lighthizer,

I write to express my deep concerns with the Department of Commerce's preliminary determination to impose tariffs on uncoated groundwood paper from Canada. On behalf of newspapers in Texas' 25th Congressional district, I ask that you carefully consider this decision and the impact it may have on local businesses.

The newsprint sector in the United States employs several hundred thousand individuals. These jobs are already in jeopardy due to the declining demand for newspapers in the last 20 years. Tariffs will only increase the threat to this vital industry, and risk putting more American business and citizens out of work. Newspapers import a great deal of their uncoated groundwood paper from Canada because it is not available in the United States. Imposing tariffs will stretch already constrained budgets unnecessarily and without the availability of a domestic alternative.

There is no reasonable substitute to fill the void created by closing down small and medium-sized newspapers. I urge you to give the utmost scrutiny as you make a final determination, and consider the affects that this decision will have on small business and rural American communities.

I urge you to prevent the aforementioned tariffs from becoming permanent, and to protect the newsprint industry across the United States.

In God We Trust,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Roger Williams".

Roger Williams
Member of Congress