

KAY GRANGER
12TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

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July 10, 2018

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary, U. S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

The Honorable Robert E. Lighthizer
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20508

Dear Secretary Ross and Ambassador Lighthizer:

I am very concerned about the Commerce Department's investigation into imports of uncoated ground wood paper from Canada and the effect it will have on the more than dozen community and metro newspapers, magazines and commercial printers in my district. I fear that the harm for American consumers will far outweigh the good.

Before issuing your final determinations, I urge you to consider the potential negative impact that any trade remedy would have on the U.S. newspaper industry, commercial printing industry and the overall U.S. paper manufacturing industry.


As you well know, over the past decade there has been a large shift toward digital alternatives to printed products by both advertisers and consumers. As a result, the demand for North American newsprint has declined substantially. Therefore, uncoated ground wood paper demand has been in steady decline in the United States. It is clear, however, that the issues related to newsprint are a direct result of changes in the market and not unfair trade.

The U.S. newspaper and commercial printing sector employs more than 600,000 people across the United States. Our printers and paper manufacturers that supply the U.S. are part of an integrated supply chain that supports a mailing industry that is part of the backbone of the U.S. economy.

It is clear that demand for newsprint in the United States has declined steeply in recent years and newsprint production has fallen as well. Domestic newsprint production cannot meet the demands of American publishers like those in my district. Small community publishers are very vulnerable to changes in newsprint price and supply.

Before issuing your final determination on this important case, please recognize the thousands of American jobs associated with the domestic newspaper, mailing, printing and paper manufacturing industries. I would appreciate your full and fair consideration consistent with applicable law, rules, and regulations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kay Granger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kay" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Granger".

Kay Granger
Member of Congress