

United States Senate

August 14, 2018

David S. Johanson
Chairman
United States International Trade Commission
500 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20436

Dear Chairman Johanson:

As the International Trade Commission nears a final vote on an antidumping and countervailing duty order on uncoated groundwood paper from Canada (Investigation Nos. 701-TA-584 and 73-TA-1382), I urge you take into full consideration the negative impacts of these tariffs on the newspaper industry, its employees, and the communities that these newspapers serve.

The newspaper industry is an important employer in California. In 2012, over 1,800 newspaper, magazine, other periodicals, and book publishers employed more than 36,000 Californians.ⁱ This does not include Californians employed by firms in related support industries.

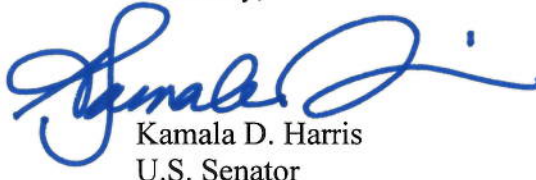
A strong newspaper industry has a number of positive externalities, including a more knowledgeable and informed citizenry. Newspapers and their employees work every day to provide their fellow Californians information about their governments and communities. In minority and rural communities, these daily and weekly newspapers are often the most-important source of information critical to an informed citizenry.

Newspapers face challenging new economics, but remain an important source of information. In the last 10 years, weekday newspaper circulation has fallen from 50.7 million to 30.9 million.ⁱⁱ This has led to a corresponding decrease in revenue of \$55.7 million to \$27.7 million,ⁱⁱⁱ and a corresponding decrease in employment from about 350,000 to 183,000.^{iv} Despite these challenges, there remains a strong demand for newspapers and their reporting.

Newspapers would be negatively affected by the imposition of antidumping and countervailing duties on uncoated groundwood paper. My constituents have indicated that preliminary tariffs have already led to reduced publication size and reductions in workforce. If these tariffs become permanent, this trend may become even more pronounced. In addition to job loss, tariffs will jeopardize the amount of local news coverage on which California's communities rely. Many small-town California newspapers, facing increased costs of newsprint across all suppliers, will be at risk of failing.

While the long-term picture of the printed newspaper industry is challenging, there is still a strong demand for printed newspapers across the country, particularly in minority communities, small towns, and rural areas without access to broadband. These duties would accelerate decline in an industry that plays an important role in our society and endanger U.S. jobs, while not creating them in the uncoated groundwood paper industry. I urge you to make a negative determination and reject the countervailing and anti-dumping duty orders imposed on uncoated groundwood paper from Canada.

Sincerely,



Kamala D. Harris
U.S. Senator

ⁱ Center for Print Economics and Market Research (2018). *California Printing Industry Economic & Fiscal Contribution*. Accessed at <http://chooseprint.org/CaliforniaEconomicContributionStudy.pdf> on August 8, 2018.

ⁱⁱ Pew Research Center (2017). *Newspaper Fact Sheet*. Accessed at <http://www.journalism.org/fact-sheet/newspapers/> on August 8, 2018.

ⁱⁱⁱ Ibid.

^{iv} Bureau of Labor Statistics (2016). *Employment trends in newspaper publishing and other media, 1990–2016*. Accessed at <https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2016/employment-trends-in-newspaper-publishing-and-other-media-1990-2016.htm> on August 8, 2018.