



National Newspaper Association

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Tariffs on Canada Threaten Newsprint Supply

Background:

The Department of Commerce is scheduled to announce the imposition of tariffs on products imported from Canada. Effective February 1, 2025, all products from Canada will be subject to a 25% tariff. Among the products impacted would be newsprint from Canadian mills. This process is unlike the actions taken in 2018 by the International Trade Commission (ITC) and Department of Commerce (DOC) in that they are not the result of a specific dispute over newsprint prices, but rather an across-the-board action on all products from Canada in response to an alleged trade imbalance and lax border control policies. As such, there is no regulatory process or opportunity for notice and comment to challenge the implementation of the new duties or highlight the severe negative impacts it will impose on small newspaper publishers in the United States.

The legal justification this action is questionable and will likely be the subject of litigation by affected parties and lead to retaliatory actions by Canada on U.S. products. NNA is evaluating its legal options and has been in touch with other groups to coordinate activities. In the meantime, we are prepared to convey the downstream effects of lost jobs within the world of the customers—in this case, community newspapers—and to request an exemption for newsprint for which there is insufficient domestic supply. These sanctions are not the result of disputed trade practices and will not result in increases of domestic manufacturing of newsprint, only higher prices that threaten community publishers who are already facing punitive postage increases and higher printing costs because of DOC and ITC action levying duties on printing plates from China and Japan.

Take Action:

NNA has sent the attached letter to Chairmen Brett Guthrie (R-KY-02) and Ted Cruz (R-TX) of the House and Senate commerce committees advising them of the damage this action will have on community newspaper publishers and asking them to request exemptions for newsprint from the administration. It is critical for all who care about preserving the important services local newspapers provide to contact their Congressional Representative and Senators to ask them to encourage Chairmen Guthrie and Cruz to intercede with this request making the following points:

NNA Urges Exemption for Newsprint from Canada from Broad-based Tariffs

- **Proposed tariffs on products from Canada will drive up costs on vitally needed newsprint.**
- **These tariffs will place an existential burden on small newspaper publishers who have no ability to purchase domestically-produced newsprint because there is not enough supply.**
- **Domestic paper manufacturers will not increase newsprint production in response to these tariffs, so there is no ability to improve the trade balance on this commodity.**
- **This action will only drive up costs for publishers already facing punitive postage increases and higher printing costs from other trade actions leading many to exit the business and depriving small communities of access to local news.**
- **Please urge the administration to exempt Canadian newsprint from tariffs.**