



March 12, 2018

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

Re: *The Uncoated Groundwood Paper from Canada, Inv. Noc. C-122-862 and A-122-861*

Dear Secretary Ross:

On behalf of the printing industry in Illinois, we urge you to heavily scrutinize the antidumping and countervailing duty petitions filed by North Pacific Paper Company (NORPAC) regarding uncoated groundwood paper imports from Canada. We believe that these cases do not warrant the imposition of duties, which would have a very severe impact on numerous industries and communities across the United States. NORPAC's petitions are based on incorrect assessments of a changing market, and appear to be driven by the short-term investment strategies of the company's hedge fund owners. The stated objectives of the petitions are flatly inconsistent with the views of the broader paper industry in the United States.

If Canadian imports of uncoated groundwood paper are subject to duties, prices across the entire paper market will be shocked and the industry's supply chains will suffer. Some paper manufacturers see the pending tariffs as a harbinger for further declines in the newsprint market and have indicated that they may be forced to convert operations to manufacture more profitable paper products. With fewer producers of newsprint, publishers would face even higher costs or a disruption in supply of this critical raw material.

NORPAC's petitions do not reflect the views of the paper industry in the United States. In fact, the antidumping and countervailing duty petitions are opposed by other U.S. producers of newsprint and the American Forest and Paper Association, which represents the broader U.S. paper industry. Given the outlier status of NORPAC, it appears that its owners, One Rock Capital Partners, may be using the petitions as a means of increasing the short-term value of this one mill, without any regard for the dramatic negative implications for the commercial printing industry in thousands of small cities and towns.

We respectfully request that this letter be placed on the official record of the Department's Uncoated Groundwood Paper Investigation.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Fisher".

Sam Fisher  
President/CEO  
Illinois Press Association



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Gibson".

William J. Gibson  
Illinois Director  
Great Lakes Graphics Association



ILLINOIS CHAMBER  
OF COMMERCE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd C. Maisch".

Todd Maisch  
President/CEO  
Illinois Chamber of Commerce