

PHILIP B. SCOTT
GOVERNOR



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

September 8, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

RE: Opposition to re-imposition of 10% Canadian Aluminum Tariffs

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing this with deep concern and in opposition to the re-imposition of a ten-percent ad valorem tariff on imports of non-alloyed unwrought aluminum from Canada enacted and taking effect on August 16, 2020. These tariffs are unnecessary and inappropriate to which there will be negative consequences, one of which is the artificial inflation of costs to aluminum goods to consumers and suppliers. New England depends on bi-lateral trade with Canada. We were pleased when the USMCA trade agreement was ratified this summer because our states rely on the uninterrupted transactional business for many of our business and high growth sectors. The trade relations and subsequent economic benefits are sorely needed in these trying times.

Additionally, the impact of the tariffs will reduce competitiveness of aluminum-consuming industries and ripple throughout New England supply chains of manufacturing and technical production. New England and Canada build things together. About half of all trade with Canada takes place between our related companies. Businesses, big and small, have built complex, integrated supply chains in aerospace, information technology, construction materials, food systems and more. As a result, the rising costs will add to the challenges already facing most business sectors during these challenging times caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. We strongly believe that this stance regarding Canadian aluminum will only hurt American manufacturers. The tariffs will make products from a F-35 jet to a washing machine to a can of beer more expensive, thus making the value chain weaker and negatively impacting our economy. It is time to look at solutions to elevate commerce on both sides of the border and not penalize key industries.

Canada and New England share more than just a border, we are allies, business partners, colleagues, and family. The important trade that we have shared throughout our history has formed co-dependent and mutually beneficial bonds that need to stay intact for us to all succeed in this partnership. We strongly encourage the removal of any proposed tariffs on Canadian aluminum products in order for both sides to focus and collaborate on recovery efforts. We appreciate the strong consideration of reversing the enactment of this detrimental tariff and implore you to keep the free trade flowing across our borders.

Sincerely,

A blue ink signature of Philip B. Scott, written in a cursive style.

Philip B. Scott
Governor, Vermont

A blue ink signature of Christopher T. Sununu, written in a cursive style.

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor, New Hampshire

A blue ink signature of Janet T. Mills, written in a cursive style.

Janet T. Mills
Governor, Maine