President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

March 07, 2018

Dear President Trump:

We are writing to express deep concern about the prospect of broad, global tariffs on aluminum and steel imports. Because tariffs are taxes that make U.S. businesses less competitive and U.S. consumers poorer, any tariffs that are imposed should be designed to address specific distortions caused by unfair trade practices in a targeted way while minimizing negative consequences on American businesses and consumers.

We were privileged to partner closely with you and your administration to develop and pass the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Your leadership on these tax cuts, in combination with your regulatory reforms, have done so much to increase the competitiveness of U.S. companies and restore the United States’ position as the best place in the world to do business. We are convinced that the benefits of these tax cuts are only beginning, and we look forward to building on this great success as the benefits continue to spread to U.S. workers and job creators. But adding new taxes in the form of broad tariffs would undermine this remarkable progress.

If you do impose tariffs, key elements are necessary to minimize negative consequences. First, any relief should be narrow, excluding all fairly traded products and all products that do not pose a national security threat. Second, a robust exclusion process should be announced at the outset that allows U.S. companies to petition for and promptly obtain duty-free access for imports that are unavailable from U.S. sources or otherwise present extenuating circumstances. Third, existing contracts to purchase aluminum or steel should be grandfathered to allow duty-free imports and avoid disrupting the operation and finances of projects that are already budgeted and underway. Fourth, the effects of this remedy on our economy should be reviewed and reconsidered on a short-term basis to determine if a different approach would better serve the interests of our American workers, job creators, and consumers.

We support your resolve to address distortions caused by China’s unfair practices, and we are committed to acting with you and our trading partners on meaningful and effective action. But we urge you to reconsider the idea of broad tariffs to avoid unintended negative consequences to
the U.S. economy and its workers. We are eager to work with you in pursuing a workable, targeted approach that achieves our shared goal.

Sincerely,

Kevin Brady
Chairman
House Committee on Ways & Means

David Schweikert
Member of Congress

Carlos Curbelo
Member of Congress

Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress

Devin Nunes
Member of Congress

Mike Bishop
Member of Congress

Tom Rice
Member of Congress

Adrian Smith
Member of Congress

David Reichert
Chairman
Subcommittee on Trade

Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress

Peter J. Roskam
Member of Congress

Erik Paulsen
Member of Congress

Sam Johnson
Member of Congress

Darin LaHood
Member of Congress

Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress

Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress
Kristi Noem  
Member of Congress

Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress

Mike Gallagher  
Member of Congress

John Moolenaar  
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress

Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter  
Member of Congress

Pete Sessions  
Member of Congress

Mac Thornberry  
Member of Congress

Mark Meadows  
Member of Congress

Mia Love  
Member of Congress

Scott Perry  
Member of Congress

Barbara Comstock  
Member of Congress

K. Michael Conaway  
Member of Congress

Jim Banks  
Member of Congress

Joe Barton  
Member of Congress

Brian Babin DDS  
Member of Congress
John Abney Culberson
Member of Congress

Mark Walker
Member of Congress

Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress

Roger Marshall M.D.
Member of Congress

Mark Sanford
Member of Congress

Paul Mitchell
Member of Congress

Brad R. Wenstrup
Member of Congress

Steve Womack
Member of Congress

Warren Davidson
Member of Congress

Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress

Ted S. Yoho
Member of Congress

F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Member of Congress

Leonard Lance
Member of Congress

Steve Russell
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress

Ron Estes
Member of Congress

Kevin Cramer
Member of Congress

Jen Mersaating
Member of Congress
Austin Scott
Member of Congress

Mike Coffman
Member of Congress

Karen Handel
Member of Congress

Charles W. Dent
Member of Congress

Ann Wagner
Member of Congress

Francis Rooney
Member of Congress

H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress

Dave Brat
Member of Congress

Mimi Walters
Member of Congress

French Hill
Member of Congress

Pete Olson
Member of Congress

Ralph Norman
Member of Congress

Ed Royce
Member of Congress

Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress

Randy Weber
Member of Congress

Will Hurd
Member of Congress

Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress
Tom Cole
Member of Congress

Tom Graves
Member of Congress

Michael Simpson
Member of Congress