



Office of the Mayor

March 20, 2018

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary of Commerce
Attention: Enforcement and Compliance
APO/Dockets Unit, Room 18022, U.S. Department of Commerce
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Ross,

I understand that there are proposed tariffs on Canadian groundwood paper, specifically newsprint, on which our local newspaper, The News-Gazette, and thousands of community newspapers like it are printed. I am concerned that the negative effect on our local paper in the form of significantly increased printing costs will hurt not only the newspaper, but our entire community and similar communities around our country.

If these tariffs are enacted, The News-Gazette will face higher costs. It may be necessary to print fewer pages, reducing the coverage of local news, vital to keeping our citizens informed about their city government and many other important community issues. Community newspapers have to be very competitive selling advertising in today's market, and they operate on a thin margin. Additional costs probably can't be covered by raising ad rates. If our community were to lose our local paper, our citizens lose their main source of local news, and our local businesses lose an effective medium for reaching their customers.

I urge you not to impose these tariffs on newsprint, which ultimately will hurt our city and communities around our country.

With gratitude, praise, and rich respect,

Frank W. Friedman
Mayor, City of Lexington

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