



June 18, 2018

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5K9

Dear Prime Minister:

As the Presidents of Canada's federal, provincial and territorial chambers of commerce, we want to publicly affirm our support for the government's efforts to defend Canadian interests in the face of unprecedented trade actions by the United States government.

We fully support the government's firm position that steel and aluminum exports from Canada do not pose a national security threat to the U.S. Our members are on the front lines of the cross-border supply chains that help drive the Canadian and American economies and support mutual national security through our joint defence industrial base.

We strongly support the dismantling of trade barriers and regret that the government is forced to propose retaliatory measures on U.S. exports to Canada. However, the American government's actions leave our country no choice but to respond in a fashion designed to encourage the withdrawal of U.S. steel and aluminum tariffs at the earliest possible opportunity. We urge the government to maintain an open dialogue with Canadian businesses to ensure that any unintended consequences for companies and workers are mitigated, particularly in those sectors that are most trade-dependent.

We recommend that Canada's advocacy efforts on the ground in the U.S. be stepped up as a means of engaging and educating Americans on the importance of our bilateral relationship. The U.S.'s ongoing consideration of imposing new tariffs in the automotive sector only underscores the need for us to act now. Contrary to President Trump's assertions, trade wars are not good, and there are usually no winners. Ultimately, businesses and consumers alike suffer the consequences. Canada's chambers of commerce will support the government's advocacy efforts by using our network's vast membership to ensure our American business partners understand the gravity of the current situation.

Despite the unprecedented environment created by the U.S. government's actions, we fully support the government's continued efforts to achieve a modernized North American Free Trade Agreement. Canadian negotiators should remain at the table and not allow the illegal and unjustified U.S. steel and aluminum tariffs to derail negotiations for an agreement that meets 21st century business needs.

Sincerely,



Ken Kolby
President & CEO
Alberta Chambers of Commerce

Trevor Wever
President
Northwest Territories Chamber of Commerce

Sheri Somerville
President and CEO
Atlantic Chamber of Commerce Inc.

Rocco Rossi
President and CEO
Ontario Chamber of Commerce

Val Litwin
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Steve McLellan
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Perrin Beatty
President & CEO
Canadian Chamber of Commerce