

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 18, 2023

The Honorable Gina M. Raimondo  
Secretary of Commerce  
US Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20230

David S. Johanson  
Chairman  
U.S. International Trade Commission  
500 E St. SW  
Washington, DC 20436

Dear Secretary Raimondo and Chairman Johanson:

We write to you regarding an ongoing antidumping investigation into tin mill steel products from eight countries, including key U.S. allies. We have concerns that the application of antidumping duties on tin mill products would be detrimental for both American manufacturers and American consumers. Rigorous analysis of the facts is critical to ensure that American manufacturers, American workers, and American consumers are not unjustly harmed.

The domestic can and food manufacturing industries in Tennessee, and over 140,000 employees across the country, would be inadvertently harmed by antidumping duties on drawn and wall ironed (DWI) tinplate. This specific type of tinplate is used to create two-piece cans in the United States. Our constituents inform us that the certain types and widths of steel required by U.S. can manufacturers are not available from domestic suppliers. Other variations of tinplate are not a suitable substitute, which the domestic industry has provided evidence of, because they sacrifice food safety. Specifically, two-piece cans have a single seam and stronger walls, which plays a vital role in reducing the risk of seam failure, thereby decreasing instances of food contamination, and preventing costly recalls.

To meet demand, can manufacturers and their customers, including America's food, beverage, household goods, and personal care product manufacturers have procured imported tin mill products from allied countries. In fact, more than 90 percent of tin mill steel imports from allied countries like Canada, the Netherlands, Germany, and the United Kingdom, which help maintain quality and ensure supply chain continuity. Can manufacturers require specific standards to ensure that tin mill steel for food cans is made to meet quality specifications to preserve brand reputation, food safety, and shelf stability. Our understanding is that certain types of steel required within the industry (DWI and certain steels for two-piece and EZ Open cans) are currently only sourced through imports. These facts, which we have seen first-hand at can and food manufacturing sites across the country, support removing DWI for two-piece steel from the scope and negative determinations in this case.

Preliminary duties on Canada and Germany, close U.S. allies, raise the cost of production for domestic can and food manufacturers. Those costs are either passed on to consumers or result in foreign canned food competitors, which do not face duties, taking limited grocery store shelf space over domestic canned food producers. This is already occurring as Chinese canned fruit and vegetable imports saw a 43 percent increase between 2019 and 2022. Antidumping duties on

tinplate would be a self-inflicted wound on the American can and food manufacturing industry. Potential price increases and lack of supply could jeopardize the employment of thousands of Tennesseans and tens of thousands of Americans who diligently work to provide the highest quality and safest can and food products at the most affordable price for American families.

It is paramount that the Department of Commerce and the International Trade Commission, carefully consider, consistent with U.S. trade remedy laws, the availability of U.S. supply for specific tin mill steel products and the impact that antidumping duties on imports from U.S. allies could have on American workers, businesses, and consumers.

Sincerely,



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Marsha Blackburn  
United States Senator



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Bill Hagerty  
United States Senator



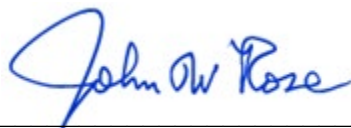
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Tim Burchett  
Member of Congress



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Diana Harshbarger  
Member of Congress



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John Rose  
Member of Congress