The Honorable Wilbur Ross,  
Secretary, Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

The Honorable General James Mattis  
Secretary, Department of Defense  
1400 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Secretaries Ross and Mattis;

We are writing in regards to the Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of Commerce, dated April 27, 2017, which directs an “investigation under section 232(b)(1)(A) of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 (the “Act”)(19 U.S.C. 1862(b)(1)(A)) to determine the effects on national security of aluminum imports.”

We appreciate the President’s commitment to America’s security and his commitment to assuring a level playing field for American manufacturing. However, we are concerned that the scope of this investigation could include aluminum that has no national security application, such as rolled can sheet and the primary aluminum which is processed into food and beverage cans and bottles, lids, and closures. Primary aluminum used in can sheet is largely imported because U.S. aluminum smelters produce other alloys more profitably. The manufacturers of aluminum food and beverage cans and bottles use recycled aluminum, scrap aluminum and imported primary aluminum. Our dependence on the imports of primary aluminum is not recent. In fact, the U.S. has been in this deficit trade position with these products since the end of World War II.

Inclusion of rolled can sheet and primary aluminum and ingot for food and beverage containers, lids, and closures in this investigation could yield import restrictions or tariffs on these products—a result that would not increase their availability in the U.S., but would necessarily impose additional costs to American end-users, and American consumers. We understand that this consequence would be unintended. Not all aluminum is the same, and the distinction of rolled can sheet, and primary and ingot used for food and beverage containers, lids and closures versus other aluminum is very important. Specifically, we would like to see the following products excluded from 232 consideration:

- Aluminum cansheet bodystock - 7606.12.3045;
- Aluminum can lid stock - 7606.12.3055;
- Other aluminum cansheet - 7606.12.3090;
- Aluminum used beverage container scrap - 7602.00.0030
- Aluminum waste and scrap other than used beverage container scrap - 7602.00.0090
- Aluminum slugs: 7616.99 and 7606.91; and
- Low purity (non-military) aluminum ingot - 7601.10.6000.

We hope that your investigation under Section 232 will be limited in scope to only products that are used for national security applications and not include the products listed above. We look forward to working with you on this matter. Please have your staff contact Jeremy Lippert with Rep. Coffman at 202-225-7882, or Hana Greenberg with Rep. Kind at 202-225-5506 if we can be of any additional assistance.
Sincerely,

Mike Coffman
Member of Congress

Ron Kind
Member of Congress

Patrick McHenry
Member of Congress

Steve Womack
Member of Congress

Scott Tipton
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress

David Scott
Member of Congress

Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress

Luke Messer
Member of Congress

Ed Perlmutter
Member of Congress
Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress

John Rutherford
Member of Congress

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

Liz Cheney
Member of Congress

Rick Allen
Member of Congress

Rob Woodall
Member of Congress

Michael Simpson
Member of Congress

Frank LoBiondo
Member of Congress

Mark Takano
Member of Congress

Billy Long
Member of Congress

Jason Lewis
Member of Congress

Paul Cook
Member of Congress

Jody Hice
Member of Congress

Danny Davis
Member of Congress
Tom Rooney
Member of Congress

Austin Scott
Member of Congress

Doug Collins
Member of Congress

Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress