

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 23, 2017

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:

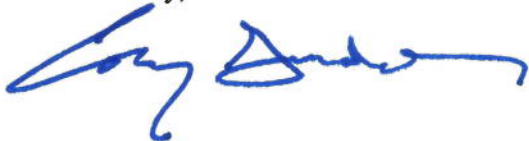
We write to request that you exempt rolled can sheet, as well as the primary aluminum and ingot milled into rolled can sheet, food and beverage cans, bottles, lids, and closures, from the investigation prompted by the Presidential Memorandum for the Secretary of Commerce dated April 27, 2017. Such an exemption would help protect consumers from immediate price increases and support domestic jobs.

Under section 232(b)(1)(A) of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 ("Section 232"), Congress permits the Secretary to initiate investigations against imported articles into the United States in order to "determine the effects [of such importation] on the national security." We are concerned, however, that the scope of this investigation could include aluminum that has no national security application, such as rolled can sheet, used to make aluminum cans and bottles, and primary aluminum, used to make rolled can sheet, food and beverage containers, lids, and closures.

Primary aluminum that is made into rolled can sheet is largely sourced from Canada. Because of this, companies that use these products depend on imports in order to make aluminum cans and bottles. For decades, the United States has run a trade deficit with respect to primary aluminum, the key raw material for producing all of the above products, due to a lack of domestic availability. Import restrictions or tariffs on these products could increase consumer prices, add hundreds of millions in costs for companies in the beverage industry, and potentially affect American manufacturing jobs in industries that rely on these products.

We hope you reach the same conclusion and look forward to continuing to work with you on this matter and other opportunities to strengthen the U.S. economy.

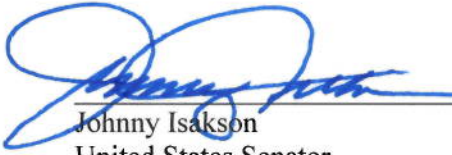
Sincerely,



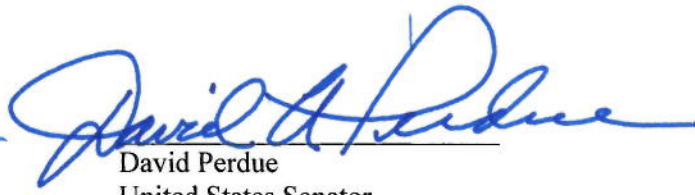
Cory Gardner
United States Senator




Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



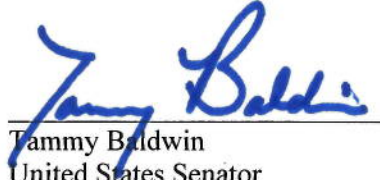
Johnny Isakson
United States Senator



David Perdue
United States Senator



Ron Johnson
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Mike Enzi
United States Senator



John Barrasso
United States Senator