July 6th, 2023

The Honorable Gina Raimondo
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Raimondo,

We write regarding the ongoing antidumping duty investigation into tin mill imports. The petitioners are asking for antidumping margins ranging from 43 to 294 percent on products from eight countries. In conducting the investigation and ensuring that America’s trade laws are fairly enforced, we ask that you take into account the impact on Virginia workers and consumers, as well as our relationship with allies.

Tin mill steel is important for domestic can manufacturing, including at a facility in Roanoke, Virginia, which employs 130 of our constituents. American can producers use both domestic and imported tinplate, depending on the can being produced. In turn, these cans support other domestic industries, including agricultural, food, and consumer goods.

American can producers are currently paying some of the highest prices in the world for tin mill steel and are already impacted by Section 232 tariffs and quotas on imported steel. Adding significant additional costs would reduce demand for domestically-produced cans, and would similarly have a negative impact on American canned goods. Some producers could end up shifting canning processes overseas, not only affecting those jobs but also potentially affecting demand for domestic agricultural goods.

In addition to the potential negative impact to American workers, these duties would directly affect the prices that American consumers pay at the store for food, cleaning products, pet food, bug spray, and a wide variety of consumer goods. Tin mill steel is the primary input into cans, and cans are often a significant portion of the final cost of goods sold for many consumer products. The prospect of tripling the price of tin mill steel would undoubtedly raise the price of canned goods for retail consumers.

The nation has made tremendous progress in recovering from the high levels of inflation caused by COVID supply disruptions. Food prices in particular have been a burden on low- and moderate-income households over the past year. Adding new costs to consumer goods at this time would take us in the wrong direction.

Such tariffs may also disrupt transatlantic trade relations and pose obstacles to working with U.S. allies on strengthening supply chain resilience and ensuring the availability and affordability of consumer goods. Tariffs on ally countries would be out of step with the Administration’s efforts to rebuild and enhance relationships with these nations and work on areas of mutual importance.
As Commerce evaluates the petition, we ask that you consider these potential impacts to Virginia workers and consumers, and America’s relationships with our close allies and trading partners.

Sincerely,

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Mark R. Warner
United States Senator