



House of Commons
Chambre des communes

July 9, 2018

Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau,

We are writing today regarding the pending threat by United States President Donald Trump to impose tariffs on the Canadian automotive industry. As representatives of one of Canada's significant automotive communities, we are deeply concerned by the lack of sectoral policy on this file by your government since 2015. In light of the current intimidation tactic by the US President, it is evident that immediate action is needed for our automotive industry and its workers by you and your government. Too much time has been wasted on a piecemeal knee-jerk reactive approach versus that of a long-term, sustainable, measurable, business plan for this innovative industry.

For years, the NDP has urged successive federal governments to implement a National Automotive Strategy. In 2005, then Prime Minister Paul Martin agreed and then Industry Minister David Emerson committed to a strategy. In partnership with the Canadian Automotive Partnership Council (CAPC), who has very strongly recommended the federal government take immediate action to protect the Canadian automotive and manufacturing industries for over a decade, sadly, this National Automotive Strategy has become yet another unfulfilled promise.

Since that time, CAPC has repeatedly called for action, as did Auto Advisor Ray Tanguay in his recent report. Yet, we still do not have action and our industry is under threat like never before.

Tariffs on this industry will devastate the companies and workers that rely on these jobs. Should tariffs be introduced, large automotive manufacturers will likely pull their remaining presence out of Canada entirely and put thousands of Canadian auto workers out of work permanently. Over 100,000 jobs could be lost, output could be cut by one million cars, and the cost of a new car in Canada could increase by thousands of dollars. The Windsor-Essex region will be hardest hit; Ontario would be plunged into a recession and the Canadian economy as a whole will suffer.

This cannot be allowed to happen.



We are respectfully calling for you to take immediate action on this file before any tariffs are introduced and protect our industry and workers from complete fall-out. Canada has waited long enough for the federal government to make a secure commitment to a National Automotive Strategy and we can never forget it was the auto sector that paid a significant price of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) with the loss of the AutoPact.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention to this important matter and vital industry. We look forward to hearing how you will move forward.

Yours truly,



Cheryl Hardcastle MP
Windsor-Tecumseh

Brian Masse MP
Windsor West

Tracey Ramsey MP
Essex

CC:

Hon. Chrystia Freeland – Minister of Foreign Affairs

Hon. Navdeep Bains – Minister of Innovation Science and Economic Development

Hon. François-Philippe Champagne - Minister of International Trade

Hon. Doug Ford – Premier of Ontario

House of Commons Standing Committee on International Trade