

# ALUMINUM ★ NOW

American Primary Aluminum Association

July 6, 2020

**Via email**

President Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20508

Dear President Trump:

I write to you today on behalf of the American Primary Aluminum Association (APAA), whose members represent the majority of U.S. primary aluminum production and employ thousands of great American workers. With the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) coming into effect, it's imperative that we use this opportunity to rebuild our country's core manufacturing abilities and bring back critical supply chains, especially during a devastating global pandemic.

As CEO of the APAA, I am proud of the thousands of American workers that produce aluminum at smelters across the United States in Missouri, Kentucky, and South Carolina. These workers make the majority of U.S. primary aluminum production. They know that the high-purity primary aluminum they produce is a vital component of our defense industrial base, used for our soldiers' body armour, planes, and tanks. And they know that the primary aluminum they make is a key component of our critical infrastructure used in mass transit systems, 5G cellular networks, and our electrical grid.

Because of your bold and courageous leadership, the Section 232 aluminum program put U.S. national security first and helped level the playing field for U.S. aluminum producers. The behavior of the Canadian aluminum industry, however, is threatening American aluminum jobs as Canada has abused tariff relief and surged imports into the U.S. market.

Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in recent days that the U.S. "needs Canadian aluminum." Since the 10% aluminum tariff on Canadian imports was removed last year, however, we have seen Mr. Trudeau's government announce new subsidies to the Canadian

aluminum industry, restart Canadian production and now has increased imports of primary aluminum into the United States by 80% – despite the agreement that the Canadians would do no such thing. Those industry groups who lobbied for exemptions, dominated by foreign producers, want your administration to believe that the problem lies only with China. Yet, these same groups are currently petitioning your Commerce Department to impose import duties of up to 151% against 18 other countries on downstream aluminum products they produce. They seek to sacrifice U.S. primary aluminum production, while increasing their own.

Mr. President, these industry groups want their cake and want to kill your Section 232 aluminum tariff program. The 10% duty is a small fraction of the 151% that these same entities are petitioning for on their own products.

To make matters even worse, your U.S. Census Bureau just released data showing that in May 2020, 184,789 metric tons of HTS 7601.10 came in from Canada, a record high since Canada was granted an exemption to your Section 232 program.

Canada is now at the highest level of Canadian aluminum imports since your Section 232 program went into place and more than 30% higher than historical average volumes. While American aluminum workers and their families are fearful of what Canada is doing to their livelihoods, Canadian aluminum imports are skyrocketing!

The APAA supports the entire supply chain and it has become necessary to call out the actions of these industry groups that seek to do America harm. Their path leads to the decimation of America's primary aluminum industry, the loss of American jobs and the offshoring of U.S. production to Canada, China, India, and the Middle East.

These foreign backed groups wrongly hide behind the flag, while the APAA is fighting for the best interests of the domestic primary aluminum industry and thousands of American jobs.

As American producers, we support the national interest and we want to put America first. For us, the national interest is to preserve our core manufacturing capacities, not to offshore these capabilities to the highest bidder.

Now is the time for decisive action against Canada's violation of its agreement as we work to rebuild America's core manufacturing capabilities. We want to see the U.S. primary aluminum industry survive and then prosper for decades to come. But to do so, we need to enforce our trade agreements, stop this unprecedented Canadian import surge, and stand strong with American workers by reinstating the 10% tariff on Canadian imports.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. L. Duffy".

Mark Duffy  
Chief Executive Officer  
American Primary Aluminum Association

CC: Mr. Mark Meadows, Chief of Staff, President Donald J. Trump