



Ottawa, June 15, 2018

International Trade Policy Division (U.S. 232 Retaliation Consultations)
Department of Finance
James Michael Flaherty Building, 14th Floor,
90 Elgin Street,
Ottawa (Ontario) K1A 0G5,

By email: fin.tariff-tarif.fin@canada.ca

Re: CANADIAN MEAT INDUSTRY COMMENTS ON RETALIATION FOR US STEEL TARIFFS

Dear sir or madam,

On behalf of the Canadian red meat industry, we submit the following comments with respect to the application of countermeasures in response to the recent actions of the United States.

Secure and predictable market access is essential for Canada's red meat sector, which contributes over \$20 Billion dollars to the Canadian economy and supports 288,000 jobs across our nation. Between 60-70% of our products are exported to over 100 countries with the United States being our largest customer. Canada and the United States enjoy the largest two-way trade in cattle, hogs, beef and beef products, and pork and pork products in the world. We strongly believe every action should be carefully undertaken in order to contribute to this objective.

First and foremost, protecting and modernizing the North American Free Trade Agreement is one of the key issues facing our industry. NAFTA has resulted in highly integrated supply chains that benefit all three countries; however, there are opportunities for greater regulatory alignment. Nevertheless, now more than ever, viable commercial access to international markets is vital to our economic success, so free trade agreements beyond NAFTA such as CPTPP, CETA and other potential agreements remain a priority for our industry.

Representing the largest sub-sector of Canada-U.S. agri-food trade, the Canadian meat and livestock industry welcomes continued active engagement and high-level conversations with government officials as difficult decisions are made to protect this industry from unfair trading threats due to restrictive trade policies in the United States. While we will not be providing specific comments on the list of products that has been published, we do recognise and support the need for appropriate countermeasures and we agree with the measured approach that has been taken.

We urge the Government of Canada to continue to work closely with Mexico and other allies using any necessary actions and all tools available to defend our trade interests while creating a stronger, united and competitive North American market.

Be assured that the undersigned representatives of the red meat sector remain available to provide real-time feedback and information as this issue evolves.

Sincerely,



David Haywood-Farmer
President
Canadian Cattlemen's Association
350 Sparks St
Ottawa (Ontario) K1R 7S8
(613) 233-9375



Chris White
President and CEO
Canadian Meat Council
930-220 Laurier Av. West
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 5Z9
(613) 729-3911



Rick Bergman
Chairman
Canadian Pork Council
900-220 Laurier Av. West
Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 5Z9
(613) 236-9239



Ryan Thompson
Chairman
National Cattle Feeders' Association
Suite 6 - 11010 46 St SE
Calgary (Alberta) T2C 1G4
(403) 769-1519