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July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018

To The Clerk of the Standing Committee on International Trade,

On behalf of Unifor Local 1285 we write to say that the tariffs against Canadian Autos and Parts manufacturers being suggested would have negative impact on workers and communities on both sides of the border.

Imposing tariffs is not an answer; this will just create a tariff war where no one will win. Furthermore the Conservatives call to rush through the CPTPP will be an additional threat to the auto sector by potentially warding off foreign investment into the Canadian industry.

Our Local is based in Brampton covering about 22 workplaces; we represent about 5700 workers and 1900 retirees. The biggest employer in our Local is FCA Brampton Assembly Plant which alone has over 4000 people working hourly and salary, and then there are the feeder workplaces which provide services such as parts, delivery, food, janitorial and chemical waste treatment.

This does not take into account of all the spin off workplaces, jobs and businesses not associated with the auto and parts sectors that may not survive without support of the auto and parts sector.

The auto and parts sector are an important and key component of our economy specifically for Brampton, we need stability and security so that this important sector remains strong to provide for the people and communities in and around Brampton.

### **Brampton Assembly Plant**

The Brampton Assembly Plant employs approximately over 4000 people (hourly and salary), this workplace builds the Dodge Challenger, Dodge Charger and Chrysler 300 working on a two shift production and three shift skilled trades operation so far which has primarily been a 6 days a week operation. Currently the workplace is undergoing a 5 weeks downtime which is for the paint shop rebuild and other tooling work. This paint shop rebuild is a first step to future investment which will be the next generation or alternative product to secure a future for our members and community.

Also directly affected are workplaces like Android, Abednego, Syncreon, Oakley, Mopar Parts, LINC, Compass, T.I. Automotive and Team which employs over 600 employees. This doesn't even include workplaces which are not part of our Local union.

These numbers are not merely numbers but in fact people who have families' dependant on employment to have the purchasing power to further drive the economy in and around our community.

**Are counter-tariffs imposed on U.S. goods the answer?**

No. Imposing counter-tariffs on U.S. goods would further escalate a trade war that would hurt workers on both sides of the border. That said, these U.S. Section 232 actions against Canada are unjustified and must be met with a targeted response. The federal government should do everything in its power to avoid a trade war, including by reminding Department of Commerce of the existing reciprocal bilateral trade in autos between our nations. For example, between January 2018 and May 2018, Canadian auto exports (finished vehicles, parts, bodies and trailers) to the United States totaled \$30.2 B, while U.S. imports to Canada totalled \$30.5 B.

The U.S. is not only our neighbour but also our main trading partner, we're sure this has been already mentioned to the U.S. but it still needs to be said by the governments.

**What can we do?**

Our Governments need to do everything possible to ensure the Canadian auto industry is stabilized in the midst of potential U.S. tariffs. Governments, at all levels, must use every tool at their disposal to prevent job losses and community hardship, and that includes financial assistance measures for affected workplaces (both directly and indirectly affected), enhanced income assistance, as well as expanded social programs like Pharmacare in order to give our economy a competitive edge.

As NAFTA re-negotiations continue, Canada has to remain firm that we need a trade agreement which is not one sided but a fair one for all parties and their respective citizens. This is an opportunity for all parties to have constructive dialogues with the intent balance fair trade, instead of taking a destructive approach and attack other nations.

**Jaspal Brar** (President)

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