



June 6, 2018

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20230

Ambassador Lighthizer
Office of the United States Trade
Representative
600 17th Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Secretary Ross and Ambassador Lighthizer:

The members of the American Scallop Association (ASA) harvest, buy and sell in excess of 75% of the US Atlantic sea scallops landed annually. ASA members are the undisputed leaders in the transglobal trade of scallops. Although their headquarters are located from Maine to Virginia, they manage inventories globally, conduct operations throughout the world and collectively employ a workforce of more than 4,000 employees.

The Canada-European Union Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) puts ASA members at an 8% disadvantage to their Canadian competitors for Atlantic sea scallops exported to the European Union (EU).

A year ago, Governor LePage and the Maine delegation collectively expressed their alarm to you that CETA was going to cause irreparable harm to the US lobster industry effectively giving Canada lobster companies a 16% to 20% price advantage over US lobster companies. The ASA can confirm the year-old expectation is now a daily reality where Canada companies with CETA-rigged prices routinely undercut US companies trying to export lobster and scallops to the EU.

We feel compelled to bring this problem to your attention in light of recent reports that later this week the US may drop the EU tariff exemption of 25% on imported steel and 10% on aluminum. At this critical stage, the ASA urges you to resume the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership negotiations as soon as possible and be steadfast in demanding that tariff rates for fishery products like scallops and lobster mirror those set in the CETA treaty.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John F. Whiteside, Jr.", is written over the word "Regards,".

John F. Whiteside, Jr., General Counsel
American Scallop Association, Inc.

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