



November 14, 2023

The Honorable Mary Ng
Minister of Export Promotion, International Trade
and Economic Development
Global Affairs Canada
125 Sussex Drive, Ottawa, ON K1A 0G2, Canada

The Honorable Gina Raimondo
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230
United States of America

The Honorable Raquel Buenrostro Sánchez
Secretaría de Economía
Calle Pachuca Número 189, Col. Condesa,
Demarcación territorial Cuauhtémoc, C.P. 06140
Ciudad de México, México

The Honorable Katherine Tai
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508
United States of America

Dear Minister Ng, Secretary Raimondo, Secretary Buenrostro, and Ambassador Tai,

Our organizations represent aluminum producers, recyclers, fabricators and suppliers across North America. For decades, our industries have relied on cross-border trade within the North American region to help make some of the highest quality and lowest carbon aluminum and aluminum products in the world. Indeed, Canada and Mexico are the United States' first and second largest aluminum trading partners, respectively. In 2019, we came together as a collective industry to support the removal of Section 232 aluminum tariffs on Canada and Mexico in favor of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

Within the USMCA framework, North America operates as an essentially integrated aluminum market, resulting in mutually beneficial cross-border trade. The aluminum industries in the United States, Mexico and Canada have all prospered through this arrangement -- with the cross-border movement of primary and recycled aluminum; semi-fabricated products; and downstream products incorporating semi-fabricated aluminum moving freely among all three countries. In 2022, our nations traded more than \$47 billion worth of aluminum and aluminum products across the region.

As we move toward the mandated 2026 review of the USMCA -- the early stages of which will begin as early as next year -- our organizations are calling for the following actions to ensure a successful review and reimplementation of this vital agreement:

- **Continued Tariff-Free Trade in North America:** The continued tariff-free trade of aluminum within North America is critical to the industries in all three of our countries. The integrated market allows each country to focus on its respective competitive advantages while benefiting from the unique strengths offered by aluminum firms in the other countries. Maintaining Section 232 aluminum tariff exemptions for Canada and Mexico benefit the sector across North America. The filing of a 15-country trade case, which includes Mexico, by a subsection of U.S. aluminum extrusion producers threatens to overshadow the longstanding coordination and partnership between the aluminum industries in the three countries.



- **Increased Regional Aluminum Import Monitoring:** Under the terms of the agreement removing Section 232 tariffs in favor of the USMCA, each country agreed to “establish an agreed-upon process for monitoring aluminum and steel trade between them.” In subsequent years, both the United States and Canada have stood up new or enhanced aluminum import monitoring programs, but Mexico has not. We urge the Mexican government to promptly implement such a program to meet the mutual commitment under the Section 232 exemption joint letter.
- **Strengthened Regional Trade Enforcement:** Across the region, it is essential that we work to combat the unfair and illegal trade of aluminum which has challenged the global industry in recent years. Both the United States and Mexico were the victims of a significant aluminum transshipment scheme in the mid-2010s in which massive volumes of Chinese aluminum billet was disguised as a different product to avoid hundreds of millions in tariffs. Both the United States and Mexico have pursued successful antidumping and countervailing duty (AD/CVD) cases against unfairly traded Chinese aluminum over the past several years. Continued vigilance and enforcement of global trade laws in the sector is needed.
- **Full Support of the Aluminum Sustainability Agenda:** Our governments must continue to support industry in its pursuit of decarbonization efforts and the broader aluminum sustainability agenda. This support may include research for next generation production techniques and increased recycling efforts. Aluminum produced in North America is some of the cleanest in the world, with carbon emissions for an average pound of aluminum made in the region declining more than 50% since 1991. Aluminum is vital to the green energy transition in transportation, construction, packaging and more.

The free and fair trade of aluminum within North America has benefited our respective industries and the tens of thousands of manufacturing jobs they represent. We stand together in our continued commitment to the USMCA framework of tariff-free aluminum trade across the region. Looking ahead to the 2026 review of the program, we are confident that the issues we have identified can and will be addressed to ensure continued cooperative trade in the region.

Signed,

Jean Simard
Aluminium Association of Canada
President & CEO

Charles Johnson
Aluminum Association
President & CEO

Eugenio Salinas
Instituto Mexicano del Aluminio
President