

November 7, 2018

Right Hon. Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Honourable Bill Morneau  
Minister of Finance  
Government of Canada  
90 Elgin Street  
Ottawa ON K1A 0G5

**Submitted Via Email:** [pm@gc.ca](mailto:pm@gc.ca); [bill.morneau@Canada.ca](mailto:bill.morneau@Canada.ca)

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau and Minister Morneau:

**Re: Safeguard Actions (Tariffs and Quotas) for Imported Steel Products**

Further to recent correspondence with you (Minister Morneau) and meetings with your senior officials, we are writing to express our ongoing concerns about the potential impact of “safeguard measures” on the supply of rebar and other steel products for the British Columbia construction market.

Members of our associations are concerned that provisional safeguard measures for rebar and other steel products that are critical for institutional, commercial, industrial and residential construction may result in delayed or deferred projects in the BC marketplace. At stake are some 60,000 construction jobs across Canada according to estimates prepared for the Canadian Coalition for Construction Steel, with disproportionately higher impacts likely for British Columbia because of how and where rebar and related products must be sourced.

At this time, we urge you to ensure that steel products in transit to Canada prior to the safeguard measures coming into force be excluded from the quota. Further, we urge a regional remission of 100,000 tonnes of rebar be allowed for BC without being included within the quota.

Importantly, spring is the busiest annual construction period in BC and begins in February, rather than April in most of the rest of Canada. With shipping lead-times of three to six months from overseas suppliers, BC’s construction industry needs surety of a sufficient, cost-effective rebar supply.

We understand the significant challenges that trade sanctions imposed by the United States administration have for your government. However, British Columbia’s construction industry is caught in a precarious position as a result of your government’s provisional safeguard measures.

Should you or your senior officials have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please don’t hesitate to contact any of the undersigned.

Sincerely,



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CC: Mr. Ben Chin, Chief of Staff to Minister of Finance