

August 7, 2018
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Dear Mr President:

I am concerned about graft. The exclusion process for your new tariff regimen on metals gives the impression of corruption. There is no economic rationale, as only you seem to know of any new steel plants opening. The obviously phony security reason gives other countries an excuse to protect their own pet products and companies such as craft beer, HVAC and tractor manufacturers an excuse to raise prices. The associated exclusion program seems designed for bribery, with thousands of companies applying, no clear criteria for the valuable exemptions and challenges from NUCOR reportedly being very successful. It seems likely that friends, lobbyists and donations in the right places are going to be the key. Apparently the only good regulation is one with graft potential.

Please assure me that you will drop arbitrary tariffs.

I am very proud to be a US resident and a large part of that derives from our honest government.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson