

December 6, 2021

The Honorable Gina M. Raimondo
Secretary
Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20230

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

Dear Secretary Raimondo and Ambassador Tai:

The National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA) urges the Biden administration to begin negotiations with the United Kingdom (U.K.) to resolve the Section 232 steel and aluminum tariff dispute as quickly as possible. We would like to thank you for your efforts to reach an agreement with the European Union to remove the 25 percent retaliatory tariff on American-made boats entering Europe and believe we can use this momentum to quickly find a resolution with the U.K.

By way of background, NMMA is the leading recreational marine trade association in North America. Recreational boating is the number one contributor to the \$788 billion outdoor recreation economy, supporting more than 700,000 jobs and 35,000 businesses across the country. Further, recreational boat building is also a uniquely American industry with 95 percent of boats sold in U.S., made in the U.S.

Since the steel and aluminum tariffs went into effect in 2018, America's strongest allies and trading partners have placed retaliatory tariffs on uniquely American products, including recreational boats. For example, American boat exports to the E.U. — the industry's second largest international market — have decreased by more than 50 percent since the E.U. placed a 25 percent tariff on American-made boats. As a result, our industry lost hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue, along with an undetermined amount of long-term market share. While our industry is once again on a level playing field with international competitors in Europe, it is not the case in the U.K.; thus, we urge you to work quickly to resolve the dispute so boat builders can begin restoring their presence there.

You and your administration have remained steadfast in your commitment to resolve trade and tariff issues affecting our industry, and we are grateful that you continue addressing these tariffs disputes — which remain one of our industry's top challenges. Thank you again and we look forward to working with you and your team in the days ahead to resolving this critical dispute.

Sincerely,

Frank Hugelmeyer
President
National Marine Manufacturers Association