



Friday, December 20, 2024

Hon. MPP Lorne Coe
3000 Garden St.
Whitby, ON L1R 2G6

Hon. MP Ryan Turnbull
106-400 Dundas Street West
Whitby, ON L1N 2MY

Her Worship, Mayor Elizabeth Roy
575 Rossland Road E
Whitby, ON L1N 2M8

Dear Leaders,

We are writing to you as leaders who represent the residents of Whitby at the municipal, provincial, and federal levels. Our intention in this letter is to convey an important message from the business community of Whitby. The message is clear: we must present a united front in response to the evolving geopolitical situation south of our border.

As the Whitby Chamber of Commerce, we represent the interests of the business community, and we are deeply concerned by the lack of cohesive action in the face of universal tariffs from the United States. These tariffs pose a significant threat not only politically but economically, as they will directly impact businesses here in Whitby and across Canada. With 78% of our exports going to the U.S. and nearly half a billion dollars in goods being imported, the consequences are far-reaching. In 2016, a year-long trade war resulted in a 25% steel tariff and a 10% aluminum tariff, which had a severe impact on the Canadian economy. Today, the possibility of universal tariffs looms large, threatening every business in Whitby and Ontario.

The Whitby Chamber of Commerce urges political leaders at all levels of government to set aside political differences and act in unison to protect our community's prosperity. We believe that with a united front, we can navigate these challenges effectively.

As we look ahead to the new year, the businesses we represent seek confidence that leaders at all levels will work together for the collective good. We ask for your commitment to fostering that confidence. Our Chamber leadership is here to offer support in every way possible to help make that happen. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Scuse".

Andrew Scuse, President

Whitby Chamber of Commerce, Board of Directors