



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Rt Hon Dr. Liam Fox
Secretary of State
Dept International Trade

8th March 2018

Dear Secretary of State

It has been a week since President Trump announced that he would be imposing tariffs of 25% on steel imports and 10% on aluminium. The expectation is that this will be signed into force today.

Since that announcement, various world leaders have publicly condemned the decision including the Canadian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister and the European Commission President and Trade Commissioner. The governments of Brazil, China, Japan and Mexico have all indicated that they are looking at what options might be taken in response.

The Australian Foreign Minister is currently in the United States seeking urgent meetings with Secretary Tillerson to discuss the matter.

Yet for an entire week you have failed to come to the House of Commons to tell parliament what representations you have made to the United States or the European Union to protect UK steel producers.

Why?

Do you not care that 32,000 skilled men and women who work in our steel sector are fearful for their jobs and their families' future. They are waiting to hear some words of support from this government for their industry. When will you do the decent thing and come to the House to make a Statement?

Yours sincerely,

Barry Gardiner

Barry Gardiner MP
Shadow Secretary of State for International Trade