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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

November 26, 2026

SENT VIA EMAIL

The Right Honourable Mark Carney, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A2

The Honourable Mélanie Joly, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Industry Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada
235 Queen Street Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0H5

Re: Urgent Request for Federal Tariff Relief for Stanpac, Smithville, Ontario — Point of No Return December 1, 2026

Dear Prime Minister Carney and Minister Joly:

On behalf of Council and the residents of the Township of West Lincoln, I am writing to ask for your immediate, personal intervention to keep Stanpac's manufacturing in Canada. Without federal support in the coming days, approximately 350 Canadian jobs in our community will be lost, and the equipment that supports them will begin moving to the United States on December 1, 2026.

Stanpac is a Canadian, family-owned food packaging manufacturer that has grown in Smithville over 70 years into one of the leading companies in its sector in North America. Its head office and main production facility are here, employing approximately 500 people. This should have been the strongest year in the company's history. Instead, since the United States imposed 50 per cent tariffs on ice cream and dairy packaging on August 22, Stanpac has been paying more than $500,000 every week in tariffs. As the company has stated publicly, it is now paying more in tariffs than the entire company takes in.

Stanpac has done what we would ask of any responsible employer. It has drawn down its own cash reserves to protect its Canadian workers, and it has engaged with every level of government on both sides of the border. To date, it has received no financial relief. That is not for lack of programs. It is because the programs available were designed for companies pivoting away from the U.S. market. Stanpac's business depends on serving that market; a pivot would mean surrendering its customers. The result is a viable, growing Canadian manufacturer that falls between the cracks of the relief Canada has put in place.

The company has now told us it must reduce its Canadian workforce by about 70 per cent and shift production to its existing U.S. plants in Texas, New Jersey and Wisconsin, where its products are not subject to tariffs. It has been clear that once equipment leaves Smithville, it is unlikely to return. December 1 is therefore not a negotiating date. It is the last practical point at which these jobs can be kept in Canada.

For a rural township like West Lincoln, the loss of 350 manufacturing jobs would be felt in nearly every household. Stanpac's employees are our neighbours, and many families have worked there across generations. The company is also one of our community's most dependable supporters, contributing to West Lincoln Community Care, the West Lincoln Arena, West Lincoln Memorial Hospital, McNally House Hospice and youth sports across the township. The impact would extend to suppliers and businesses throughout Niagara.

We respectfully ask the Government of Canada to:

1. **Meet with Stanpac before December 1.** Direct senior officials from Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada and the Department of Finance to meet with Stanpac's leadership this week to put a bridging solution in place before equipment begins to move.
2. **Provide direct, time-limited tariff relief.** Establish targeted support, such as a bridging contribution or tariff offset funded from the counter-tariff revenues Canada is collecting, for integrated cross-border manufacturers that must keep their U.S. market share to survive.
3. **Adapt existing programs to fit firms like Stanpac.** Give officials the flexibility to make companies of Stanpac's size and cross-border structure eligible under the Strategic Response Fund, including the new Canada Strong Diversification Fund, or the Large Enterprise Tariff Loan facility, without requiring a pivot away from the U.S. market.
4. **Prioritize dairy and food packaging in trade discussions with the United States.** Seek the removal of tariffs on ice cream and dairy packaging as part of Canada's ongoing negotiations.

The Township stands ready to support this work in any way we can, and we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you or your officials, together with Stanpac, at your earliest convenience.

Canada has asked its manufacturers to stand firm through this trade dispute. Stanpac has done exactly that, at great cost. We are asking the federal government to stand with them now, before the jobs, the equipment and the investment leave our country.

Thank you for your urgent attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Cheryl Ganann
Mayor, Township of West Lincoln

cc: The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
The Honourable Vic Fedeli, Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade
Dean Allison, M.P., Niagara West
Sam Oosterhoff, M.P.P., Niagara West
Matt Witt and Andrew Witt, Co-Presidents, Stanpac
Frank Campion, Chair Niagara Region Council
Members of West Lincoln Council