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HCPA Responds to Deal that Lifts Steel and Aluminum Tariffs on Mexico and Canada

Washington D.C. – The Household & Commercial Products Association (HCPA) released the following statement today, attributed to Steve Caldeira, President and CEO of HCPA, after the U.S. reached a deal with Canada and Mexico to lift tariffs on steel and aluminum.

“Lifting the tariffs on Canadian and Mexican steel and aluminum in exchange for measures that would block Chinese steel from entering the U.S. through Mexico and Canada eliminates a major obstacle to passing the U.S.-Canada-Mexico Agreement (USMCA). While this deal is clearly a step in the right direction, it does not go far enough. Other U.S. allies, including the European Union (EU), are still subject to steel and aluminum tariffs, thereby leaving American manufacturers at a competitive disadvantage.

HCPA member companies make products that are essential to health in American homes and workplaces, contribute \$180 billion annually to the economy and support 200,000 direct jobs. Many of these products rely on aerosol technology and nearly all aerosol products use aluminum or steel.

HCPA analysis reports that in 2016, U.S. manufacturers produced 3.02 billion steel containers, 811 million aluminum containers and 3.72 billion valves to fill 3.75 billion aerosol products. The aerosol industry relies heavily on high-quality imported steel and aluminum to produce the containers and valves essential to the safety and performance of the finished aerosol products.

Tariffs decrease access to the best quality materials, slow innovation, negatively impact aerosol can and component manufacturers, which will ultimately cost jobs. By increasing the costs to these essential and familiar everyday products, it invites retaliatory tariffs on the finished products that American industry ships abroad. The net outcome of the Administration’s action essentially equates to placing a tax on consumer products that will ultimately be paid by Americans. HCPA condemns the ongoing trade war, and respectfully urges the Administration to continue to engage productively in bilateral negotiations to bring stability back to the American economy.”

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About HCPA

The Household & Commercial Products Association (HCPA) is the premier trade association representing companies that manufacture and sell \$180 billion annually of products used for cleaning, protecting, maintaining, and disinfecting homes and commercial environments. HCPA member companies employ 200,000 people in the U.S. whose work helps consumers and workers to create cleaner, healthier and more productive lives.

