

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Rhonda K. Schmittlein
Chairman, International Trade Commission
500 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20436

The Honorable David S. Johanson
Vice-Chair, International Trade Commission
500 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20436

Dear Chairman Schmittlein and Vice-Chairman Johanson:

We write to express our strong support for the International Trade Commission's (ITC) investigation into unfairly traded imports of hardwood plywood from China. As you are aware, this investigation began as a result of a petition filed by U.S. hardwood plywood manufacturers that collectively account for 80 percent of U.S. production. Last December, the ITC unanimously found in its preliminary determination that there was a reasonable indication of material injury to U.S. manufacturers due to Chinese imports. We urge the Commission's considered analysis in this final phase of this current investigation.


Several years ago, a similar case was first brought before the ITC. Since that time, it is our understanding that the hardwood plywood industry has suffered additional job losses despite increasing demand for wood products. Meanwhile, China has overtaken 50% of the market. Simply put: American manufacturers cannot compete when the deck is so unfairly stacked against them. For many small towns in America, the hardwood plywood industry is the largest source of employment. When facilities are closed by unfair trade, there are no alternatives for these communities.

During the prior case, U.S. hardwood plywood manufacturers were operating at no more than 50 percent of their production capacity. Since then, that number has decreased further. This is because, as the Commission found in its preliminary investigation, increasing Chinese imports undersell American-made products by substantial margins. In turn, this is abetted by unfair trade practices.

The United States should not allow its capacity to manufacture products domestically to erode in the face of unfair trade practices that hurt American companies, cost American jobs, and harm American communities.

We urge the Commission to ensure a level playing field.

Sincerely,

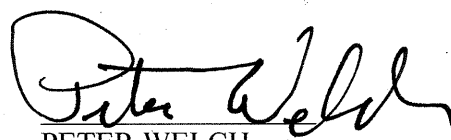

GREG WALDEN
Member of Congress

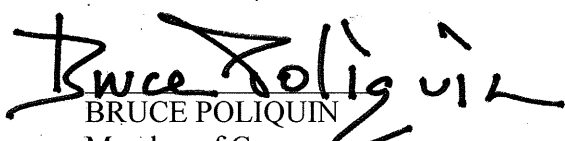

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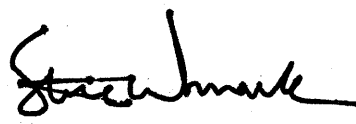

DOUG LIMALFA
Member of Congress

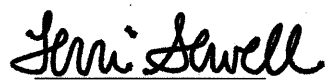

DAVE LOEBSACK
Member of Congress

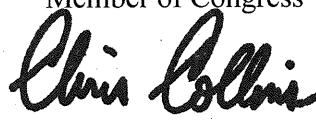

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