



December 22, 2016

The Honorable Irving A. Williamson
Chairman, U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E Street, SW
Washington, DC 20436

The Honorable Paul Piquado
Assistant Secretary, Import Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Chairman Williamson and Assistant Secretary Piquado:

The United Steelworkers (USW) writes today regarding the antidumping and countervailing duty (AC/CVD) petitions filed on November 18, 2016, by the Coalition for Fair Trade of Hardwood Plywood. As a union representing workers across America that have experienced harm due to imbalanced trade practices from China, we urge full consideration of this petition.

American woodworkers and hardwood industries produce high-quality, sustainably developed plywood at fair prices. However, over the past 10 years, American companies representing the hardwood plywood industry have lost thousands of jobs due to an influx of dumped products from China. Trade data shows that from 2013 through the first six months of 2016, Chinese imports of hardwood and plywood volume increased by more than 40% into the American market, a nearly \$300 million increase within three years. Despite growing U.S. demand and an increase in housing starts, Chinese imports now account for almost 50 percent of the current U.S. market, while shipments by the domestic industry have decreased. The reason for these statistics is simple: hardwood and plywood products from China are being dumped into the US market and are subsidized by the Chinese government.

The thousands of manufacturing and related jobs in the forest products industry are largely in smaller and rural communities where some of the highest economic poverty exists.

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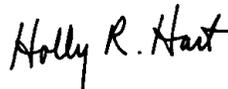


For example, Roseburg Forest Products, a hardwood plywood manufacturer, has a particleboard manufacturing facility in Simsboro, Louisiana, many of whose workers are represented by United Steelworkers Local Union 1081. The jobs provided by Roseburg and other companies are nothing short of the lifeblood for these areas, and harm to U.S. hardwood plywood production also harms these companies as a whole. Therefore, it is vitally important to these companies and others like them to enforce the rules of fair trade, as set forth under U.S. law.

We understand that in 2012, the ITC and Department of Commerce received a similar petition addressing this issue, and that the Commission issued a negative determination. However, the statistics noted above demonstrate that American manufacturers have experienced significant and material economic injury since that decision.

On behalf of American manufacturing jobs and the communities they support, the United Steelworkers urges full consideration of the petitions filed by the Coalition for Fair Trade of Hardwood Plywood.

Sincerely,



Holly R. Hart
Assistant to the International President
Legislative Director