

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 21, 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:

We write to ask that full and fair consideration be provided to the antidumping and countervailing duty (AD/CVD) petitions filed on November 18, 2016, by the Coalition for Fair Trade of Hardwood Plywood. These petitions allege several serious unfair trade practices employed by China, which harm U.S. businesses and the workers upon whom they rely.

According to the petitions, hardwood plywood products from China are being sold at dumped prices far below what normal market conditions would support. The petitions identify government subsidies received by Chinese producers that give those companies an unfair advantage over U.S. producers in the marketplace. These subsidies come in the form of government lending programs, local income tax exemption programs, value-added tax rebates and tariff exemptions for equipment and machinery, and export tax rebates of hardwood plywood. According to the petitions, China now accounts for over 50 percent of the U.S. hardwood plywood market, as U.S. imports of Chinese hardwood plywood nearly doubled in the last three years.

The AD/CVD petitions filed this year by the Coalition for Fair Trade of Hardwood Plywood represent a critical step in finally addressing the type of unfair trade practices that China has employed to create artificial advantages in this particular marketplace. Your agencies will recall a related petition filed by the Coalition in 2012. In that proceeding, while substantial dumping and subsidy margins were found by Commerce, the ITC made a negative injury determination. Since that time, evidence submitted with the new petition indicates that these unfairly traded Chinese imports are directly in competition with U.S. goods, the trade data shows their imports have increased another 40% since the first petition was filed, and the American producers are now showing significant financial stress and material injury that was not established in 2012-2013. We ask that you give these new antidumping and countervailing duty petitions full and fair consideration, and that your agencies ensure the U.S. trade remedy laws are fully enforced.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter.

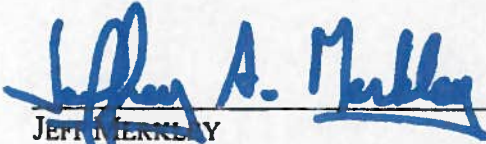
Sincerely,



RON WYDEN  
United States Senator



SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO  
United States Senator



JEFF MERKLEY  
United States Senator



RICHARD BURR  
United States Senator