

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 16, 2009

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write to urge you to adopt the recommendations made on June 29 by the International Trade Commission (ITC) for import relief in a case brought by the United Steelworkers (USW) under Section 421 of the Trade Act of 1974 and involving a surge in passenger and light truck tires imported from China.

An important American industry- with manufacturing facilities in thirteen states across the nation and employing over 31,000 workers- is on its knees due to the market disruption caused by imports of Chinese tires. Your decision to adopt the ITC's recommendation would remedy this disruption, save thousands of U.S. manufacturing jobs, and halt the further decline of the U.S. tire industry.

The case presents a classic example of why the China-specific safeguard was adopted in conjunction with China's WTO accession. At long last, it must be used as Congress intended. From 2004 through 2008, Chinese tire imports drastically reduced US producer market share by surging 215 percent in volume and a staggering 295 percent in value. The ITC record demonstrates that the increased imports paralleled the collapse of domestic production, shipments, capacity and employment. More than 5,100 workers have lost their jobs during this period, with four facilities closed, capacity and hours reduced in others, and more facilities slated for closure in 2009. The results have been extremely painful and caused harm to families and entire communities in our states and across the country.

The ITC Commissioners who found market disruption unanimously recommended that tariffs – 55% in year one, 45% in year two and 35% in year three – be placed across the board on passenger and light truck tires from China. We firmly agree that adopting the ITC's recommended relief would provide the breathing room the industry and its workforce so desperately need to bring back its capacity and workforce. Such relief, as the ITC found, would not impose any significant cost on consumers but would make all the difference to our domestic industry and its workers. We also support having the Secretary of Labor make affected tire workers eligible for Trade Adjustment Assistance on an expedited basis.

Likewise, we firmly believe that providing this specific measure of relief would send a powerful message to the American people that you intend to keep your promise to

enforce trade laws fully. Across the country, Americans are increasingly frustrated with the impacts of unfair trade practices on working families. The Section 421 case is an important test case in that regard and an important step in regaining the public's confidence in trade liberalization. We appeal to you to provide relief and secure the future of our domestic tire industry and its highly-skilled workforce. Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

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Rebbie Staterow

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Mark R. Warner

Kay R. Hagan

[Signature]