

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 25, 2013

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

Dear Mr. Chairman,

We write to express our strong support for the efforts by American hardwood plywood manufacturers to reign in unfairly traded imports from China. This investigation was instituted as a result of a petition filed on behalf of U.S. hardwood plywood manufacturers that collectively account for approximately 80 percent of U.S. production. The ITC, in its preliminary determination last November, unanimously determined that there was a reasonable indication that this U.S. manufacturing industry was suffering material injury due to Chinese imports. We urge the Commission's considered analysis in this current final investigation phase.

American manufacturers cannot compete when the deck is unfairly stacked against them. This industry is critical to local and state economies throughout the United States. In so many instances, the communities – small towns and cities - in which the U.S. manufacturing facilities are located depend on the continuing competitive viability of these companies for jobs, for paychecks and for support of the worker's families. In fact, when these facilities are closed by unfair trading practices, there are no alternatives to which these communities can turn.

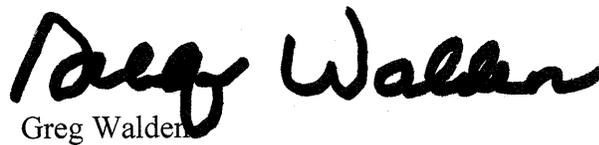
Even in a rebounding economy, we understand that U.S. hardwood plywood manufacturers are operating at no more than 50 percent of their production capacity. And while the size of the U.S. market has grown in recent years, U.S. manufacturers are effectively precluded from this growth. It appears this is because, as the Commission found in its preliminary investigation, a growing tide of Chinese imports undersell domestically-manufactured product by substantial margins. In turn, this is abetted by unfair trade practices. Moreover, Chinese companies in the wood products sector – including hardwood plywood manufacturers – enjoy a significant cost advantage as the world's largest consumer of illegally sourced wood material.

As the greatest manufacturing engine in the history of the world, our nation cannot allow its capacity to manufacture products domestically to erode in the face of unfair trade practices that hurt American companies, cost American jobs, and destroy American communities. We urge the Commission to ensure a level playing field.

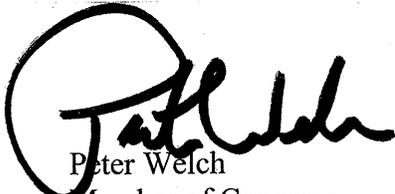
Sincerely,



Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress



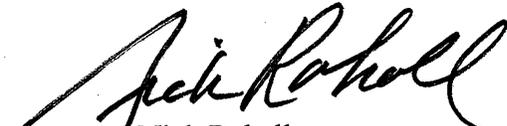
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Member of Congress


Peter Welch
Member of Congress

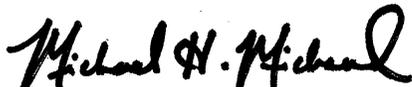

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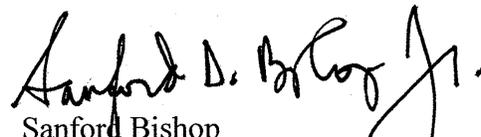

Michael Michaud
Member of Congress


Chris Gibson
Member of Congress

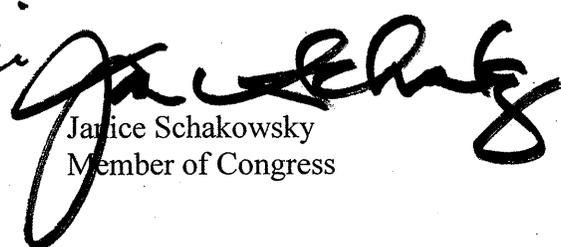

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