

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Rhonda K. Schmidlein
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 Schmidlein and Vice-Chairman Johanson:

We write to express our strong support for the efforts by American hardwood plywood manufacturers to rein in subsidized and dumped imports from China, and urge the Commission to carefully consider the facts presented by the domestic industry in the final investigation phase of this proceeding.

The International Trade Commission unanimously found in its preliminary determination in December that there was a reasonable indication that this U.S. manufacturing industry was suffering material injury due to Chinese imports. As the Commission evaluates the evidence in this final phase, we note in particular several developments that distinguish this case from a similar one brought before the ITC in 2012. For example, since that earlier case was filed, imports have increased another 40%. The hardwood plywood industry has suffered additional job losses despite increasing demand for wood products, more clearly demonstrating that material injury has occurred. 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.

For many small towns in America, the hardwood plywood industry is the largest source of employment. When facilities are closed by unfair trade, communities are severely harmed. Moreover, Chinese companies in the wood products sector—including hardwood plywood manufacturers—are the world's largest consumers of illegally sourced wood material. Chinese producers benefit from subsidies and from illegal logging, creating a playing field that tilts in their favor and against hard-working American manufacturers, costing American jobs.

We appreciate the Commission's work to date on this important matter, and urge the Commission to ensure U.S. trade remedy laws are fully enforced.

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



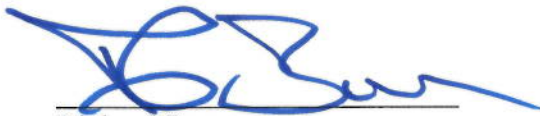
Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



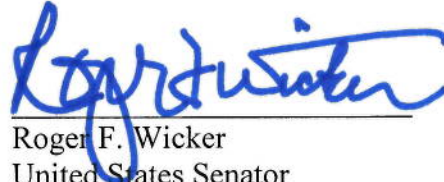
Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Richard Burr
United States Senator



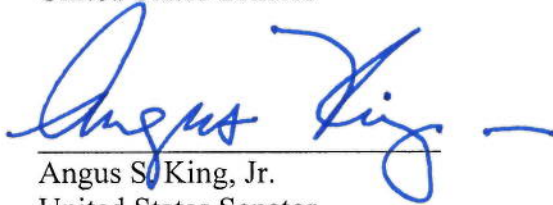
Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator



John Boozman
United States Senator



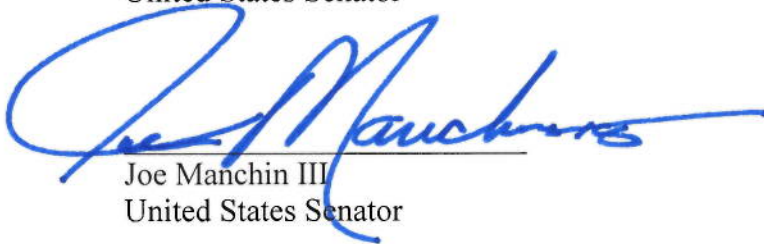
Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator