

COMMITTEE TO SUPPORT U.S. TRADE LAWS

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June 17, 2008

The Honorable Christopher A. Padilla
Under Secretary for International Trade
United States Department of Commerce
Herbert Clark Hoover Building
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Padilla:

We are requesting an opportunity to meet with you on behalf of representatives of the Committee to Support U.S. Trade Laws (CSUSTL).

The subject is the adequacy of staffing and funding for the Office of Import Administration (IA). For several years, staffing levels at IA have been declining. Individual cases are frequently moved from team-to-team, apparently reflecting shifting staff availabilities. Staffing and funding shortages contribute to sometimes undermanned teams for various matters, including verification trips. The China office appears to be understaffed.

We have been aware of these problems for some time, and have worked with Members of Congress in support of adequate funding levels for IA. Various Congressional reports have noted these problems and directed the Department to assure that the trade laws are properly enforced. Nevertheless, we understand that IA staffing is currently significantly less than its authorized level.

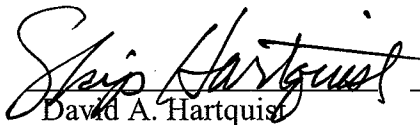
Our concern is heightened at this time because we anticipate an increase in antidumping and countervailing duty cases in the near future, particularly against China. We understand that funds appropriated for IA may have been diverted to other programs within the Department of Commerce.

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June 17, 2008
Page 2

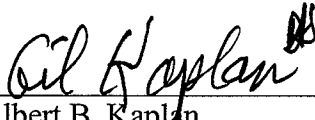
We would appreciate an early opportunity to meet with you to discuss this matter which is so vital to the interest of American manufacturers, agricultural producers and workers. Skip Hartquist will call your office to determine a convenient date.

With best regards.

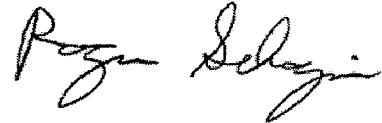
Very truly yours,



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