

United States Senate

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October 2, 2008

The Honorable Shara L. Aranoff
Chairman
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E. Street, SW, Room 112
Washington, DC 20436

Dear Chairman Aranoff:

I write regarding the International Trade Commission's investigation on Light Weight Thermal Paper from Germany and China [Inv. Nos. 701-TA-451 and 731-TA-1126-1127 (Final)]. Under sections 705(b) and 735(b) of the Tariff Act of 1930, the ITC must determine whether "an industry in the United States is materially injured or threatened with material injury, or the establishment of an industry in the United States is materially retarded." I applaud the ITC and Department of Commerce for taking up this investigation and was pleased to hear the results of the preliminary determinations. I urge the ITC to consider carefully all of the arguments on the record, specifically the injury that has been inflicted upon the light weight thermal paper industry, when making its final decision.

It is my understanding that artificially low-priced imports of light weight thermal paper from Germany and China are flooding the US market and are being sold in the US at prices lower than the cost of production. I am told that these artificially low-priced imports—which increased by more than 60 percent between 2000 and 2006—are eroding the domestic industry's market share and jeopardizing the jobs of the 454 people employed by Appleton Coated Paper Company in Pennsylvania.

I am told that the domestic paper and paper products industry has lost nearly 200,000 jobs over the past decade, and that many of those who were laid off were working in Pennsylvania. However, despite the losses in the manufacturing sector over the past decade, the light weight thermal paper industry has worked hard to keep its capabilities current and to keep technologically competitive on a global scale.

I urge you to review carefully the facts on the record of this investigation for the final determination. The record demonstrates that there is a likelihood of material injury to the domestic light weight thermal paper industry. The lightweight thermal paper workers, their families, and the communities in which they live cannot afford another round of plant closures and job losses.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,


Arlen Specter

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