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September 4, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20502

Dear President Obama:

I urge you to accept the United States International Trade Commission's Section 421 recommendation to impose tariffs on Chinese-made tires in the U.S. market.


Section 421 of the *Trade Act of 1974* includes a country-specific safeguard on imports from China. The United Steelworkers Union brought a tire case forward for ITC review in April. The ITC has now recommended, for your review, that tariffs be applied to the tire industry over a three-year period.

According to records in the USW case, tire imports from China have increased 215 percent between 2004 and 2008. In this same period, U.S. tire production has declined 27 percent and imports from other countries have decreased 5 percent. USW estimates anticipate 3,000 U.S. jobs will be lost if nothing is done.

In each of the four previous affirmative investigations, President George Bush opted not to apply the Section 421 safeguard. Your conclusion on this matter holds particular significance to the country. Not only is your decision considered a bellwether for your stance on trade enforcement, but today's economic climate places additional gravity on all matters affecting our nation's workforce.

I ask that you grant our tire markets tariff relief in these challenging times. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


JASON ALTMIRE
Member of Congress