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**Contact:**  
Larry Smar  
202-228-6367

## Casey Applauds Ruling in Tire Case; Looks to Import Relief

WASHINGTON, DC- U.S. Senator Bob Casey today said he is looking ahead to an effective remedy now that the International Trade Commission has announced its conclusion that import surges from China are costing domestic tire industry workers their jobs.

“Today’s decision by the ITC is a victory for American workers,” said Senator Casey. “I am pleased the ITC has recognized the compelling case the United Steelworkers made that surges of passenger vehicle and light truck tires from China are causing injury to our domestic tire sector. The playing field has not been level and workers in Pennsylvania and across the United States have been threatened with job and wage losses. It is my hope that today’s good news will be only the first step toward the ultimate goal of providing relief for American workers.”

Section 421 of the Trade Act of 1974 was adopted in 2000 as a condition for China’s membership in the World Trade Organization. Under this safeguard mechanism, companies or workers injured by import surges from China can petition for temporary relief in the form of reduced imports.

In this case, the USW is requesting an import quota of 21 million consumer passenger tires. The quota would then increase by five percent per year over three years. This would initially return imports from China to the 2005 level and give U.S. producers a chance to adjust to rising imports and stay competitive over the long term.

The USW petition explained how imports of passenger vehicle and light truck tires from China between 2004 and 2008 led to sharp declines in domestic production and over 5,000 job losses. The petition showed that there was a 215 percent increase in imports by volume and a 295 percent increase in imports in terms of dollar value over the five-year period.

Senator Casey, who has championed previous efforts by the USW to establish a more level playing field, testified at an ITC hearing on June 2 in favor of the union’s petition. At that hearing, Casey expressed his solidarity with the workers at the Specialty Tires of America facility in Indiana, Pennsylvania, which has been in operation for over 90 years.

Senator Casey urged the application of the 421 safeguard in this case, saying, “We have seen trade deficits soar, currency manipulation go unchecked, and lavish subsidies by foreign governments go ignored, as well as exploitation of workers in other countries go overlooked. I don't want to see the town of Indiana and others like it in Pennsylvania and states across our country harmed yet again from a lack of enforcement of trade rules.”

The ITC determined that injury has occurred and that the vote on a remedy will occur on June 29. Following that step, the ITC will present its report and recommendation to President Obama on July 9. The President’s decision for a remedy is due in mid-September.

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