



July 27, 2009

Mr. Eric G. Altbach,
Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative for China Affairs
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20508

Re: Notice of Proposed Measure and Opportunity for Public Comment Pursuant to
Section 421 of the Trade Act of 1974: Certain Passenger Vehicle and Light Truck
Tires From the People's Republic of China

Dear Deputy Altbach:

On behalf of the over 700,000 men and women represented by the Communications Workers of America (CWA), I write to urge the Obama Administration to provide timely and robust import relief in the case involving the surge of passenger vehicle and light truck tires from China. Docket Number USTR-2009-0017.

The CWA is made up of men and women in telecommunications, broadcasting, cable TV, journalism, publishing, electronics and general manufacturing, as well as airline customer service, government service, health care, education and other fields, in both the public and private sectors. We are on the cutting edge of globalization in a range of industries and see its benefits as well as its downsides. We believe that global commerce can succeed in delivering opportunities broadly to workers only if the internationally agreed to rules are enforced and honored.

The safeguard mechanism established in Section 421 of the Trade Act of 1974 became part of the system of trading obligations when China sought entry into the World Trade Organization in 2000. Accordingly, China must honor its agreement to abide by the terms of this statute.

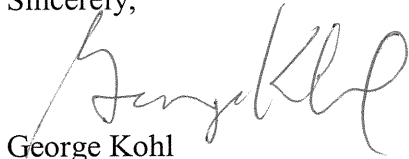
The U.S. International Trade Commission conducted a thorough review as provided for under the statute and concluded that there has been a surge of the subject tires and that this surge injured workers involved in tire production in the United States. The ITC recommended that a tariff be imposed on passenger vehicle and light truck tires over a three-year period - 55 percent this year, 45 percent in the second year, and 35 percent in the third year. CWA believes this will achieve the intended purpose of the statute by providing the injured industry a chance to return to a level of profitability and to retain jobs and productive capacity in the United States.

This is the seventh petition filed under Section 421 and the fifth petition on which the ITC recommended import relief for the injured industry. We believe the previous Administration's rejection of relief on four previous occasions effectively ignored the intention of Congress in creating this safeguard mechanism and sacrificed the jobs of hardworking Americans. CWA hopes the Obama Administration will adopt a new approach to enforcement. In that regard, we welcome the pledge made by U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk that enforcement will be a "centerpiece" in President Obama's trade policy.

The surge in tires has already cost over 5,000 Americans their jobs and another 3,000 could face job loss this year unless the President adopts the ITC's recommendation. We urge you to affirm the ITC's determination and recommendation and we are hopeful and confident the President will provide timely and needed relief.

We request that this submission by CWA be included in the record for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Kohl". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

George Kohl
Senior Director
Collective Bargaining and Technology