

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

February 25, 2016

The Honorable Meredith Broadbent
Chairwoman
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20436

Re: Certain Amorphous Silica Fabric from the People's Republic of China: Investigation Nos. 701-TA-555 and 731-TA-1310 (Preliminary)

Dear Chairwoman Broadbent:

We write in support of the antidumping and countervailing duty investigation regarding imports of certain industrial grade amorphous silica fabric (ASF) from China (Investigation Nos. 701-TA-555 and 731-TA-1310). Unfair and potentially illegal subsidy practices by Chinese central, provincial, and local governments and dumping practices by Chinese ASF producers are harming the hard-working men and women at Auburn Manufacturing, Inc. (AMI), a Maine textile producer that is the petitioner in this case. AMI is the largest American producer of industrial grade ASF, accounting for well over half of such fabric produced in the United States.

According to AMI, its profitability and growth potential have been negatively affected by Chinese trading practices, which allow producers to sell ASF at artificially low prices. AMI asserts that the illegally subsidized ASF from China caused the volume of imports of Chinese ASF to increase by more than 150 percent between 2012 and 2014. AMI further notes, using data sourced from the International Trade Commission's Dataweb, that the price per unit of ASF from China remained extremely low - from between \$2 and \$4 USD per kilogram - during this time same period. By contrast, AMI's average price per kilogram varied between \$17 and \$18 USD.

While AMI has been able to resist layoffs to date, wages paid to its production employees and the number of hours they worked declined sharply in 2015. We are very concerned about the possibility of future job losses in this highly specialized U.S. textile industry.

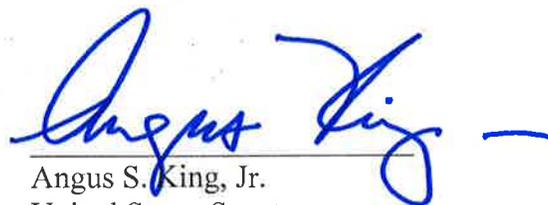
AMI's products are used for welding operations by the U.S. Navy and must meet stringent specifications. Such specifications pertain to a variety of chemical and physical properties, including thermal survivability, low thermal conductivity, chemical non-reactivity, flexibility, strength, and abrasion resistance. Addressing unfair and potentially illegal trade practices by foreign governments and Chinese competitors is crucial to ensuring a continued domestic source of industrial grade ASF for U.S. Navy welding activities.

United States trade laws are designed to prevent the type of unfair competition alleged in AMI's antidumping and countervailing duty petition, and we support enforcement of these trade laws to protect Maine workers. Therefore, consistent with all appropriate laws and regulations, we urge you to thoroughly review the facts in this antidumping and countervailing duty case and give careful consideration to the information provided by AMI.

Sincerely,



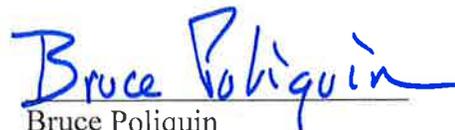
Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



Bruce Poliquin
Member of Congress