

**In the Matter of USITC 53-Foot Domestic Dry Containers from China  
Inv. No. 701-TA-514 and 731-TA-1250**

**Testimony of Congressman Steve Womack, Third District of Arkansas**

**Before The U.S. International Trade Commission**

**April 16, 2015**

Chairwoman Broadbent and members of the Commission, it's an honor to appear before you today. Today's proceedings are critical to the great State of Arkansas, the U.S. intermodal industry, and the overall U.S. economy.

In most antidumping and countervailing duty cases, you would see Senators and Representatives testify for the domestic industry. Don't get me wrong: If imports are harming U.S. companies, I am all in favor of the protections afforded by the U.S. antidumping and countervailing duty laws. However, this is a unique case and I ask the Commission to analyze carefully whether antidumping and countervailing duties should be imposed.

This is a case about a U.S. manufacturing company that was a principal supplier to the U.S. transportation industry that refused to change its production methods to keep pace with industry standards and expectations for the manufacture of intermodal containers. This is about a U.S. manufacturing company that exited the U.S. market for intermodal containers instead of changing its production methods to address their customers' complaints about the product they supplied. This is about a company that tried to get back into the domestic container business but failed to meet the needs of the intermodal industry.

Make no mistake - I am proponent of fair trade - but when U.S. companies fail to listen to their potential customers and fail to provide a product that their customers want, I feel that the customers are free to find a company that will produce the product desired.

J.B. Hunt is a large business in my district – as Mayor of Rogers, I watched them grow, developing into a major company that gave back to their community. J.B. Hunt tells me that it wanted to purchase domestic containers from the petitioner and it actually was willing to assist the petitioner retool some of its plant. However, the petitioner only wanted to provide a mechanically-fastened product, rather than the fully-welded container required by its customers. I am told that the mechanically-fastened product is a previous generation product with which J.B. Hunt, along with other purchasers, experienced significant water damage to cargo, increased maintenance costs and a shorter useful life.

When a U.S. company refuses to provide a product that the intermodal industry wants, it seems counter-intuitive and illogical that antidumping and countervailing duties should be imposed against imports from other suppliers - suppliers that are willing, and in fact do, provide the U.S.

Chairman Broadbent and Members of the Commission, I thank you for considering my views on this matter.