

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 18, 2017

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
BUDGET
ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
INTELLIGENCE
RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

The Honorable Irving A. Williamson
Chairman, U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20436

Re: Certain Amorphous Silica Fabric from China
Inv. Nos. 701-TA-555 and 731-TA-1310 (Final)

Dear Chairman Williamson,

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Auburn Manufacturing Inc. (AMI), and its petitions for the imposition of antidumping and countervailing duties on imports of amorphous silica fabric from the People's Republic of China.

I am testifying today in strong support of Auburn Manufacturing, its employees, and the importance of a robust trade enforcement system that works for U.S. companies both large and small.

Auburn Manufacturing is a small, woman-owned manufacturing producer that employs forty people at two facilities located in Auburn and Mechanic Falls. AMI is not only a leading producer of high performance, heat-resistant fabrics and textiles, but an innovator as well; Kathie Leonard, its owner, has worked to develop niche products like removable, energy-saving insulation covers for unusual piping and high-access equipment. When Kathie and I spoke in November 2013 over lunch in Auburn with other small business leaders, she was excited about the growth potential behind this new product.

Just two years later, Kathie was in my office in DC explaining that her company was losing sales volume and prices were depressed due to unfairly traded Chinese imports of amorphous silica fabric. Despite the declining sales volumes and increasing operating losses, AMI had resisted laying off employees. Instead, the company reluctantly cut back on worker hours in 2015, which had a negative effect on employee wages. In mid-2016, AMI was forced to cut an entire production shift due to the loss of silica business to illegally subsidized and dumped Chinese imports. Losing the production shift resulted in the layoff of six production workers.

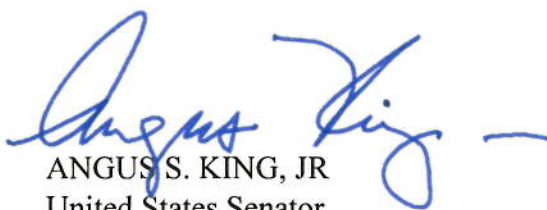
These are good-paying jobs with benefits in an area of Maine where it is not always easy to find good-paying jobs with benefits. If the Commission makes an affirmative final determination of material injury to AMI due to illegally subsidized and dumped Chinese imports, then I believe

China essentially stole those jobs from Maine. To date, the investigation is strongly suggesting that Chinese producers of amorphous silica fabric are both subsidized and selling their products at less than fair value.

That is why I am also testifying today in strong support of the best trade enforcement system we can possibly build for American companies of all sizes. Small businesses that play by the rules and that work hard to keep good-paying manufacturing jobs in the country ought to be better supported by our trade enforcement agencies. When our trading partners choose to violate agreed-upon rules, placing U.S. businesses at an unfair competitive disadvantage, we need to be able to respond swiftly and decisively.

I would ask that the Commission give careful consideration in this investigation to ensure that Auburn Manufacturing Inc. and its workers are provided with a level playing field to compete. I thank the Commission for the opportunity to provide my testimony on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Angus King, Jr.", with a horizontal line extending to the right from the end of the signature.

ANGUS S. KING, JR
United States Senator