

**TESTIMONY OF ROSIE SILVERS, JTB FURNITURE**  
**U.S. International Trade Commission, Inv. No. 731-TA-1058 (Review)**  
**Wooden Bedroom Furniture from China**  
**November 10, 2016**

Good morning. I am Rosie Silvers, and I have worked for Johnston/Tombigbee Furniture Manufacturing for the last 41 years – all of them at our plant in Columbus, Mississippi. From 2004 to 2014, I was Vice President of Carpenters Industrial Council Local 2445. Since 2014, I have had the honor to serve as President of our Union. You have heard from a number of executives here about what the antidumping order on wooden bedroom furniture from China means to American companies. Now I would like to tell you what it means for American workers like me.

I started at JTB Furniture in 1975. Since 2008, I have worked on a line that prepares assembled furniture for painting. My job is quality control – I check every piece to make sure there are no imperfections or other flaws that will interfere with the painting process. It is a very important job, because we are in a highly competitive business, and every piece has to be as good as we can make it. But I'm not alone. There are 200 workers at JTB Furniture – and 140 workers in our bargaining unit – and we are all proud of our work. Every week, we take wood and transform it into beautiful pieces of furniture that are sold all over the United States.

As the Union President, I know that JTB Furniture is fortunate to have such a dedicated and talented work force. But I also know that we are fortunate to have such good jobs. Columbus is a small town in Northeast Mississippi, near the Alabama line. It's a great town – but like a lot of American towns these days, it doesn't have too many

good jobs for people who didn't have the chance to attend college. JTB Furniture is the only significant manufacturer within driving distance for those of us who work there. Over the last 41 years, JTB has provided me a good job with a steady income. That job has put a lot of Thanksgiving dinners on our table. It's put a lot of Christmas presents under our tree. It's meant health insurance for me and my family. For me – and for other workers all across this country – making furniture has been our chance at the American Dream. We need these jobs.

Now let me be clear. Those of us who work at JTB Furniture understand how business works. We know that you have to make a high quality product at a good price in order to satisfy your customers. We know you need people who are committed to doing their best. We know you need to invest in new equipment, and that you must be prepared to change with the times. We have seen many ups and downs in this business, and we don't expect something for nothing. All we ask is a fair chance. Don't make us compete with imports that our own government says are dumped. That's not fair. Don't put our jobs at risk because the Chinese built too many factories, and now want to sell furniture at any price just to keep their mills running. That's not fair. Keep the Order on dumped imports from China in place, and give me – and all of us in this critical industry – the opportunity to keep doing our job.

Thank you very much for your time.