

U.S. International Trade Commission

**Hydrofluorocarbon Blends and Components Thereof from China
Inv. No. 731-TA-1279 (Final)**

Commission Hearing, June 21, 2016

Testimony of Dean McCoy

My name is Dean McCoy. I am a member of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, Local Lodge 1969. The IAM represents workers at Arkema's production plant in Calvert City, Kentucky, which produces among other things R32 and HFC blends. I have served as Chief Steward, Maintenance Steward and am currently the Financial Secretary for Local Lodge 1969 and have worked at Arkema for 25 years. I have also in the past led the Calvert Area United Fund drive within the plant. Given my various positions with the union, hands-on work in the plant and in the industry, and commitment to the community, I know what is at stake in this investigation: jobs, our community and the health of our national economy. I am proud that Local Lodge 1969 and our International union are tireless fighters on behalf of U.S. workers, especially when it comes to issues of illegal dumping by China that puts our members out of work. I am pleased to appear before you today.

I see the harm that is being caused by illegal dumping every day. For the past nine years, I have worked in the tanker loader group. This group loads all refrigerants and byproducts that leave the plant in rail cars or trailers. We take care of all the storage of all the refrigerants at the plant, and monitor all of the tanks that refrigerants are stored in prior to loading. We also perform the blending operations. We are given a chart of the required components, put them in a tank through a flow meter, circulate them, and send the finished blend to a packaging facility or load it straight into rail cars or trailers.

Before I worked in the tanker loader group, I worked in two of the refrigerant operation plants. I worked for about four years in the plant that makes R141 and R142, and I worked for seven years in the plant that makes R134a. The training for this highly skilled work is extensive and takes 120 days. There's a written test, and every three years you have to be recertified in a hands-on exam.

We have a good collective bargaining agreement at Arkema. The solid wages and benefits the IAM has negotiated have been very good for workers at Arkema, Calvert City and the surrounding area. These wages and benefits are critical for the health of our local economy, where only a few big employers remain. We're in a very rural area located about 25 miles from Paducah, and have employees who will commute 50 to 60 miles every day to get to work. Recently both a tire plant and a compressor plant shut down and moved. Losing any jobs in

this region would be devastating to employees and their families. There simply are too few jobs in the area, let alone ones that pay the decent wages and benefits that have been negotiated in our collective bargaining agreement.

The illegal dumping activity by China hurts workers at Arkema. The impact of this illegal activity goes way beyond Arkema, however. Its impact has a multiplier effect on vendors, suppliers and other small businesses in the area. It also has an impact on our national economy as cargo services, namely railroads and trucking companies, lose business because of the unfair competition from China.

I have had the opportunity to raise two girls and send both of them to college because of my job at Arkema. I am not alone. Many, many of my fellow workers who are also mothers and fathers have been able to have a decent standard of living, raise a family and send their kids to college because of the important work they do here. It is so important that future generations also have the opportunity to do what we have done for our families. We are asking you to take all actions to prevent unfair competition from China which threatens our jobs, communities and our national economy.

Thank you for your time. I'm happy to answer any questions that you may have.