

Slaughter Hopes ITC Ruling Leads to Import Relief for Tire Workers, Urges Quick Action

Washington, DC - Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chairwoman of the House Committee on Rules, today expressed hope that the International Trade Commission's (ITC) ruling that import surges from China have injured domestic tire industry workers will pave the way for timely import relief.

Early this month, Rep. Slaughter testified before the ITC on behalf of workers at the Goodyear-Dunlop tire plant in her district in favor of limiting tire imports from China. Click [her](#) [e](#) to view Rep. Slaughter's testimony before the ITC.

"The failure to take enforcement seriously has hurt too many workers for too long. I hope the ITC's ruling signals a shift in policy and fairer trade for American workers," said Slaughter. **"While I applaud the ITC's decision, I believe the compelling facts in this case could have yielded no other conclusion. I am confident these facts will also lead to an effective remedy for tire workers in upstate New York and other places around the country."**

The ITC reached its conclusion in what is known as a Section 421 investigation, a provision in trade law that allows companies or workers injured by import surges from China to petition for temporary relief in the form of reduced imports. Section 421 of the Trade Act of 1974 was adopted in 2000 in conjunction with China's entry to the World Trade Organization.

The United Steelworkers, which filed the 421 petition, is requesting an import quota of 21 million consumer passenger tires. The quota would then increase by five percent per year over three years. This would initially return imports from China to the 2005 level and give U.S. producers a chance to adjust.

In today's ruling, the ITC determined that a surge of imports of passenger vehicle and light truck tires imported from China between 2004 and 2008 led to sharp declines in domestic production and over 5,000 job losses. The petition showed that there was a 215 percent increase by volume in imports of these tires over the five-year period.

The petition was the subject of a public hearing at the ITC on June 2, at which Slaughter expressed her concern about the future of the 1,000 workers at the Goodyear-Dunlop plant in Buffalo and the nation's manufacturing base.

Should the ITC determine that injury has occurred, it will then vote on a remedy on June 29. Following that step, the ITC will present its report and recommendation to President Obama on July 9. The President's decision for a remedy is due in mid-September.

"This is a 'no brainer'," Slaughter concluded. "If the surge in Chinese tires and the adverse effect it has had on American workers doesn't justify relief, then what on earth does? I strongly urge the Administration to enact a strong and prompt remedy for the workers at the Buffalo Goodyear-Dunlop plant and workers across the country."

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