

Fighting for Fair Trade & Our Paper Sector Jobs

We remain at a point where our country desperately needs jobs, yet we are failing to take action when unfair trade causes massive destruction of jobs in our domestic industries. We've battled against these practices in the steel industry, tire industry and in manufacturing in general. Now, there is a key trade case pending involving coated paper. If we win this case, we will beat back China and Indonesia's unfair tactics and secure U.S. jobs.

It's time to take action. During the Congressional Recess that began this week and runs through early September, we need to make sure the public knows about these issues and that our elected officials feel compelled to act. This is the ideal time to get our message out by writing letters to the editor in our local papers and publications.

Action Instructions:

1 – Get letters to the editor published in your local and regional papers to highlight the need to win this trade case. Please use the “tips” on the following page and sample points to shape your letters.

2 – Review the policies for your local and regional papers to ensure your letter is the right length and submitted correctly. This is easily found on the editorial page in print copies of a paper or in the editorial section of a paper's website.

3 – Local Rapid Response Coordinators should make sure to report any published letters to your District Coordinator and/or Congressional District/State Coordinator.

***If you have questions or need more information,
contact your District Rapid Response Coordinator.
You can also call us toll-free at 866-851-9631
to be connected with your Coordinator.***

Letter Tips:

Letters to the editor usually comment on items and editorials in the newspaper, but you can bring up any subject. Since editors will not publish anything that appears to be a form letter or anything that has already been published, letters must be individualized. Editors are more likely to print letters that are:

- Signed with your name, address, and phone number;
- Short and to the point (make sure to refer to the specific paper's policy on length; most are 250 words or less);
- Well reasoned and indicate the writer knows the subject; and
- Timely and relate to an ongoing issue in the news or respond to a news article or editorial printed no more than a few days before if possible. In this case, there may be an opportunity to tie in the coated paper case to another article that runs on a trade-related or job-loss issue.

Ideas to Consider when Writing Your Letter(s):

- Urge Senator XX or Representative XX to do all he or she can to support the trade case on coated paper.
- Indonesia and China are cheating by subsidizing and selling their paper products at less than fair value in the U.S.
- No matter how advanced the technology or how productive our workers are, we can't compete with imports being sold below the cost of production.
- Companies and workers have been hurt. Their families, friends and communities have suffered from losing critical jobs.
- We simply want fair rules of competition.
- We work hard and play by the rules. Our government should stand up for our rights.
- The rules being enforced were agreed to by all Members of the World Trade Organization. What good are the rules if we can't use them?
- It's vital that government enforce the rules.