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Dear Member of Congress:

We are writing to let you know that tomorrow morning we will be filing antidumping and countervailing duty petitions against certain paper imports from China and Indonesia. As a Member of Congress who represents production and employee interests that are affected by this case, we wanted to make you aware in advance of the filing and seek your support.

You know, all too well, the problems facing paper companies and workers around the country, and in your area. While some say that we've hit bottom, in the paper industry, we continue to face enormous pressures with production and employment being hard hit. Over the last several years, numerous operations have either had to shut down or curtail their operations, costing thousands of paper workers their jobs.

While the economic slowdown has certainly added to our difficulties, the single most important factor regarding sales of these products is the devastating impact that unfairly traded imports from China and Indonesia have had on the industry. The case we will file tomorrow covers coated printing paper and paperboard suitable for high quality print graphics using sheet-fed printing presses, and having a brightness level of 80 or higher. Together, China and Indonesia have unfairly stolen 30 percent of our market as imports have risen dramatically. This is roughly twice the level of imports from the same period last year.

These countries have subsidized their producers with a variety of programs and benefits. In addition to these subsidies, they are dumping their products in our market. It's vital that we enforce our trade laws to combat these anticompetitive actions and restore a competitive market. While some assets are lost forever, there is ample capacity in the U.S. that can be brought back on line once fair competition is restored allowing domestic producers to increase production and maintain, if not increase, employment. Given a level playing field, we believe the domestic paper industry can compete with anyone in its markets.

Your help is needed. We hope that you will immediately speak out in support of our efforts by issuing a statement urging enforcement of the trade rules. And, in the coming days, we hope that we can count on your support as we seek to fight the unfair trade that has decimated the industry.

If you have any questions, please contact Stephen Koplan at 202-293-8899 ext 4.

Sincerely,

Leo W. Gerard, International President, United Steelworkers  
John Cappy, President and Chief Executive Officer, Appleton Coated LLC  
Rick Willett, President and Chief Executive Officer, NewPage Corporation  
Mark Gardner, President and Chief Executive Officer, Sappi Fine Paper North America