

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

November 5, 2003

The Honorable Donald L. Evans
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The U.S. residential wood furniture industry and its workers are being adversely affected by a surge of unfairly priced imports from China. By manipulating its currency and subsidizing massive investments in furniture manufacturing facilities, the Chinese Government is leading the assault on American companies and jobs. Furniture has become China's top export by the number of containers exported and China's furniture exports are making a substantial contribution to the United States' growing trade deficit with that nation. We request that the Administration take appropriate actions to force the Chinese Government to stop undervaluing its currency and to stop all forms of subsidy to the Chinese furniture industry.

We also request the Commerce Department's International Trade Administration to do everything it can to facilitate and expedite the evaluation of an antidumping investigation against imports of wooden bedroom furniture from China. We understand that the American Furniture Manufacturers Committee for Legal Trade, an ad hoc coalition of over 30 domestic producers, has recently filed an antidumping petition. The Committee for Legal Trade is not seeking quotas or special safeguard tariffs. It does not want "protection" against imports. It just wants the U.S. government to stop allowing illegal pricing and to restore free market conditions by imposing antidumping duties in accordance with the law.

The wooden bedroom furniture industry is highly fragmented and has never utilized U.S. trade laws. If this antidumping petition is successful, producers of other wood residential furniture products may follow this precedent and seek antidumping duties against imports from China. This appears to be one of the last options to address the problems the industry is facing. Consequently, we request your careful consideration of the petition filed by the American Furniture Manufacturers Committee for Legal Trade.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters.

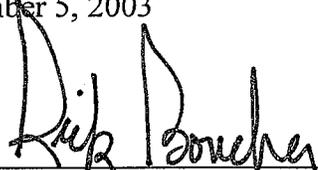
Sincerely,



Melvin L. Watt



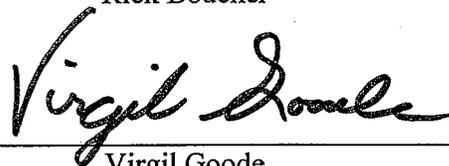
Howard Coble



Rick Boucher



Cass Ballenger



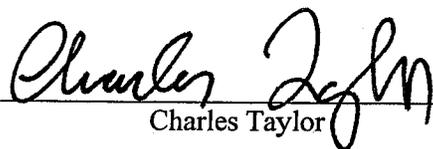
Virgil Goode



Fred Upton



Bob Etheridge



Charles Taylor



Martin Frost



Robih Hayes



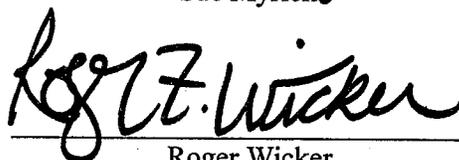
Baron Hill



Sue Myrick



Richard Burr



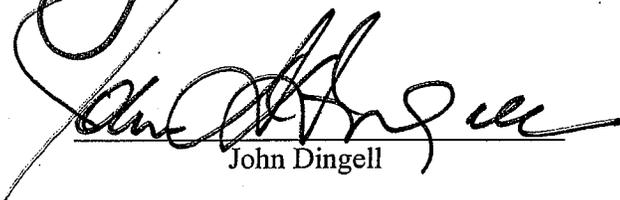
Roger Wicker



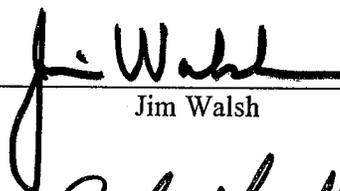
Jim Marshall



Walter Jones



John Dingell



Jim Walsh



Frank Wolf



Bob Goodlatte



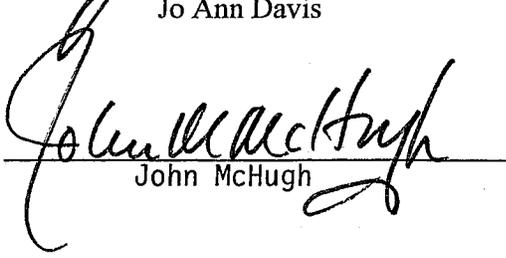
Brad Miller



Mark Souder



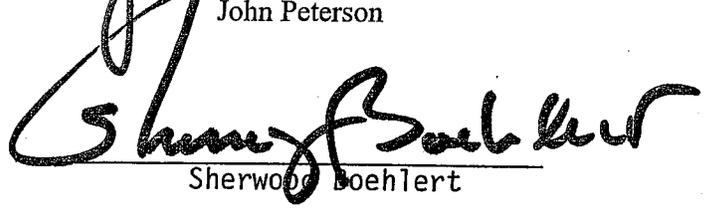
Jo Ann Davis



John McHugh



John Peterson



Sherwood Boehlert