United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 15, 2014

The Honorable Penny Pritzker
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Madame Secretary:

We are writing in strong support of the Department's decision to initiate antidumping and countervailing duty investigations of passenger vehicle and light truck tires from China.

As you well know, China has targeted the passenger vehicle and light truck tire sector for development and there are several hundred tire manufacturing facilities now operating in that country. In 2009, the United Steelworkers (USW) filed a Section 421 petition seeking relief from a flood of similar tires from China that were injuring our producers and their workers. That petition was successful and the relief that was provided helped to restore market conditions. Employment stabilized and companies producing here invested billions of dollars in new plant and equipment.

Unfortunately, shortly after relief expired, imports of these tires from China once again skyrocketed. Since the Section 421 relief ended in 2012, imports from China have roughly doubled. In response, on June 3, 2014, the United Steelworkers (USW) filed petitions with the Department alleging dumping and subsidies. The Steelworkers' petitions identified dumping margins as high as 87.99 percent and provided sufficient information for the Department to initiate an investigation on 39 separate subsidies available to tire producers in China. Our laws need to be fairly and faithfully enforced to ensure that workers – our constituents – can be confident that, when they work hard and play by the rules, their government will stand by their side to fight foreign predatory trade practices. Thousands of workers across the country are employed in this sector, making the best tires available.

America's laws against unfair trade are a critical underpinning of our economic policies and economic prosperity. Given the chance, American workers can out-compete anyone. But, in the face of China's continual targeting of our manufacturing base, we need to make sure that we act quickly and enforce our laws. That is what we are asking and urge you and your Department carefully analyze the facts and act to restore fair conditions for trade.

Sincerely,

Kay R. Hagan
United States Senator

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator

Carl Levin
United States Senator

Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

Mark R. Warner
United States Senator

Mark L. Pryor
United States Senator

Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator

Tom Harkin
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Al Franken
United States Senator

Tim Kaine
United States Senator

Joe Donnelly
United States Senator

Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

Barbara Mikulski
United States Senator

Cory Booker
United States Senator

Mark Begich
United States Senator

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Jack Reed
United States Senator

Ed Markey
United States Senator

Christopher Murphy
United States Senator

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

Robert Menendez
United States Senator

Mary L. Landrieu
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator

Joe Manchin III
United States Senator