

Written Statement of Congressman Bruce Poliquin (ME-2)

Submitted to the U.S. International Trade Commission on January 18, 2017

Investigation Nos: A-570- 038 and C-570- 039

Thank you, Chair Schmidlein, Vice Chairman Johanson, and Members of the Commission, for giving me this opportunity to speak up on behalf of my constituents at Auburn Manufacturing in Central Maine. These 40 hard-working Mainers are some of the most-skilled industrial textile manufacturers in the world. They weave tiny glass strands into the highest-performing industrial cloths and tarps.

These protective coverings prevent fires and protect workers from flying molten metal while welding the huge hulls of Navy destroyers built at Bath Iron Works, the top shipbuilding company in the world, also located in Maine.

Auburn Manufacturing, its hard-working and skilled industrial weavers, and its high-tech fabric is a proud part of Maine's manufacturing economy AND is an important ingredient in our national defense.

As a boy, I grew up in the bustling mill towns of Central Maine. The Penobscot, Kennebec and Androscoggin Rivers were dotted with dozens of thriving paper, textile, leather, and shoe factories. It seemed like everybody's dad or mom worked in the mills. These were good-paying and came with healthcare and retirement benefits. Our families were proud and independent, and our neighborhoods and schools were filled with kids.

My grandmother stitched the best shirts in the world at Hathaway Shirt Company in Waterville. My late brother spun the finest yarn available at the Cascade Woolen Mill in Oakland. I worked the night shift at the Wyndot Spinning Mill in Sydney to get through school. "Making things" has been the manufacturing backbone of Maine's economy for generations.

Sadly, today, most of our mills and factories are boarded up. Smothering taxes, punitive regulations, high energy costs, and UNFAIR AND ILLEGAL TRADE have killed our jobs.

When that happens, it devastates our families and communities. Neighbors are forced to pack up and leave where they grew up. Some are pushed onto welfare. High schools shrink, and the collection baskets at church see quarters instead of dollars. Hospitals close and the corner store no longer has enough traffic to stay open.

We are here today not because Auburn Manufacturing has done anything wrong. Quite the opposite. Companies like Auburn Manufacturing give us hope. They are a bright spot in American manufacturing – in Maine manufacturing. They produce a world-class proprietary

product and they play-by-the-rules. And, in doing so, AMI supports 40 good-paying career jobs with benefits.

We are here today because, the Chinese government has chosen to unfairly subsidize dozens of Chinese manufacturers of amorphous silica fiber in violation of international trade law. This illegal activity has been going on for years.

Over the last 3 years, Auburn Manufacturing lost 30% of its silica business, laid off a number of workers, and spent more than \$500,000 in legal fees because of this cheating by the Chinese Government and Chinese manufacturers, who continue to dump their competing products at subsidized prices into the US economy.

With all due respect, the mission of your distinguished Commission is to stand-up for American workers and stop this illegal and unfair activity. Our hard-working fellow Americans can compete against anybody and win as long as the playing field is level. But, please, we need a government that stands strong and works for us – not one that looks the other way.

You have a chance to help the “little guy” who plays by the rules. There are lots of “little guys” in the US economy. Your decision today will send a strong message to the world that the US Government will enforce its trade laws.

I ask you today to do what’s right, to do what’s fair, and to conclude that the Chinese Government subsidies are illegal and that they caused material injury to this American industry.

To that end, with the strongest request possible, I ask you to please accept the thorough analysis and the tariffs levied by the International Trade Administration. In doing so, I ask you to accept the 162%, and possibly higher, dumping margin, and the high CVD margins imposed on the silica fabric products sold in the US by the Chinese manufacturing companies who have been breaking the law.

On behalf of our honest, hard-working families throughout Maine's 2nd Congressional District, I thank you in advance for doing what’s right; for leveling the playing field; and for bringing relief to Auburn Manufacturing and its 40 deserving employees.

In closing, I want to thank and congratulate Assistant Secretary Paul Piquado and his staff at the International Trade Administration for their terrific work in unravelling this complex violation of international law.

Thank you!