

Michaud Announces Approval of Katahdin Paper Company's TAA Application

Wednesday, November 19 2008

WASHINGTON, DC -

Today, Congressman Mike Michaud announced that the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) has approved the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) application submitted on behalf of 208 workers at Katahdin Paper Company LLC in Millinocket, Maine, who are being displaced due to increased imports and foreign competition. Earlier this month, Michaud sent a letter to Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao supporting Katahdin Paper Company's application. Michaud also spoke directly with Deputy Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training Brent R. Orrell on behalf of the application.

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"I could not be more pleased with this news and I'm glad that the U.S. Department of Labor recognized the importance of covering these workers under TAA," Michaud said.

In his letter, Michaud requested that USDOL review the Trade Adjustment Assistance appeal in a timely manner to ensure that the workers receive the assistance they need to mitigate the employment instability and to help reduce the negative affects that foreign trade has had on their financial security.

Over the past three months, the customer base at Katahdin Paper Company LLC has eroded significantly making it necessary for the company to shutdown its Millinocket operation for an indefinite period of time. During this three month period, Katahdin Paper Company LLC has been losing its customer base to Canadian suppliers making it increasingly difficult to maintain operations.

"Having yet another certification for Trade Adjustment Assistance reminds us that unfair trade practices continue to hurt our economy," Michaud emphasized. "Our state has lost 23 percent of its manufacturing base since NAFTA. Plain and simple - our trade policies are simply not working and we need to do something about it."

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