

Snowe, Collins, Michaud Praise Trade Adjustment Assistance Approval for Katahdin Paper Mill Workers

Friday, September 19 2008

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Senators Olympia J. Snowe and Susan Collins and Representative Mike Michaud today announced that the U.S. Department of Labor has granted Trade Adjustment Assistance for 208 workers who were permanently displaced from their jobs at Katahdin Paper Co. mill in Millinocket. The Katahdin mill was forced to close its doors on September 2, 2008, due to increased imports and competition from foreign paper producers.

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"The Labor Department's decision to grant Trade Adjustment Assistance to the workers of Katahdin Paper Company is welcome news for the community of Millinocket," the delegation said. "The closure of the mill was a shock to the local economy. The approval of Katahdin Paper Company's application ensures that the mill's dislocated workers will receive the assistance they need to help get them through these tough times. We will continue to do whatever we can to help Millinocket recover and build for the future."

Since the company announced the closure of the mill, Senators Snowe and Collins and Representative Michaud have visited the mill and met with union, town and mill officials to discuss alternative options for keeping the mill open. The delegation also worked with Labor Secretary Elaine Chao, Fraser CEO Peter Gordon, Mill Manager Serge Sorokin, Governor John Baldacci, Town Manager Gene Conlogue to ensure that the mill's 208 workers have access to every available resource in the wake of a mill closure.

Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) is a program of the Department of Labor that helps workers who have lost their jobs as a result of increased imports or a shift of production outside of the United States. TAA provides these trade-affected workers with a variety of reemployment services and benefits to help them find new jobs and get back to work.

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