



COALITION FOR
**FAIR TRADE OF
HARDWOOD PLYWOOD**

Coverage Report for ITC Final Determination.

THE COALITION FOR THE FAIR TRADE OF HARDWOOD PLYWOOD.

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ITC Issues Affirmative Final Ruling, Signaling High Tariffs on Dumped and Subsidized Chinese Hardwood Plywood Imports

December 1, 2017

Today, the International Trade Commission (ITC) issued its final determination, activating significant tariffs on the imports of Chinese hardwood plywood, voting 4-0 that the domestic industry is materially injured, or threatened with material injury, by reason of these dumped and subsidized imports. The Coalition for the Fair Trade of Hardwood Plywood commends the unanimous decision by the ITC, praising it as meaningful relief for the U.S. hardwood plywood industry.

“We greatly appreciate today’s affirmative injury determination, which confirms that illegal trade practices from China will not be tolerated,” said **Tim Brightbill, trade counsel to the coalition**. “This vote reflects years of hard work and commitment from coalition members, congressional allies, and partners to address the challenges faced by the U.S. industry.”

“Today’s decision demonstrates that the U.S. Government will not tolerate unfair trade practices and will support American manufacturing and workers,” said **Kip Howlett, president of the Hardwood Plywood Veneer Association**. “This puts American interests first by standing up to the illegal imports of Chinese hardwood plywood. We are thankful for the hard work of the Commission and the Department of Commerce in recognizing the significant unfair trade practices of the Chinese hardwood plywood industry and the injury it has caused U.S. producers.”

The ITC’s results are the product of years of urging by the Coalition to take action against unfairly traded Chinese imports. In October, the ITC held a hearing on these illegal imports of Chinese hardwood plywood and listened to the testimony of numerous U.S. producers, company executives, and members of Congress. Earlier this month, the Department of Commerce also made final determinations against Chinese hardwood plywood and set an antidumping duty of 183.6 percent, as well as countervailing duties ranging up to 194.9 percent.

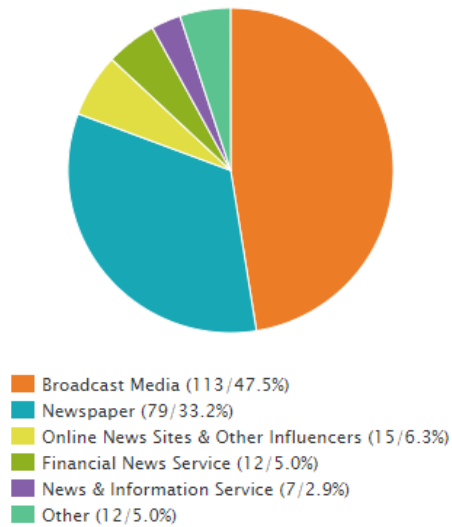
In addition to the testimony provided at the ITC, the Coalition received a letter of support from more than 40 members of Congress – led by U.S. Sens. Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) and Reps. Greg Walden (R-OR) and Pete DeFazio (D-OR) – urging the ITC to issue meaningful relief for the U.S. industry. The letter of support recognized the ways in which the U.S. industry has been harmed by illegal trade practices, forcing many producers to operate at less than 50 percent capacity. Imports of Chinese hardwood plywood increased 22 percent from 2014 to 2016, and another 26 percent in the first half of 2017, injuring the U.S. industry.

The antidumping and countervailing duty cases were filed on behalf of the Coalition for Fair Trade of Hardwood Plywood, a group of six producers and manufacturers that are committed to safeguarding the U.S. hardwood plywood industry and its thousands of workers. The law firm of Wiley Rein LLP is representing the Coalition in these investigations.

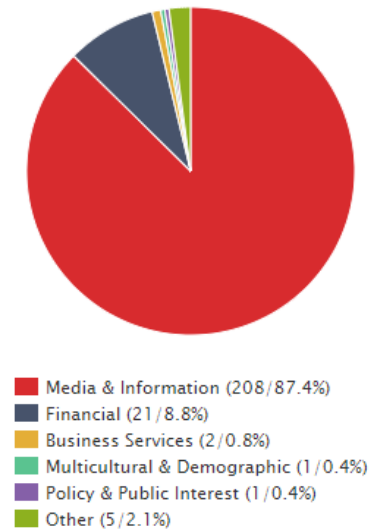
ABOUT US: The Coalition for Fair Trade of Hardwood Plywood is committed to standing up for American workers and supporting U.S. manufacturers. The administration must take steps to preserve the U.S. production of hardwood plywood by combating the rising tide of unfairly traded imports into the U.S. from China. To learn more, visit www.hardwoodplywoodfairtrade.com

Visibility Report

Total Pickup by Source Type



Total Pickup by Industry



Total Pickup: 238

Total Potential Audience: 84,983,409

Pickup by PR Newswire Media Partner Websites - Top Outlets

Outlet Name	Location	Source Type	Industry	Potential Audience
 Yahoo!	Global	Portal	Media & Information	66,181,000 visitors/day
 Business Insider: Markets Insider	United States	Online News Sites & Other Influencers	Financial	1,726,000 visitors/day
 Seeking Alpha	United States	Financial News Service	Financial	513,000 visitors/day
 Business Review (Albany)	United States	Newspaper	Media & Information	324,000 visitors/day

	New Mexico Business Weekly	United States	Newspaper	Media & Information	324,000 visitors/day
	Atlanta Business Chronicle	United States	Newspaper	Media & Information	324,000 visitors/day
	Austin Business Journal	United States	Newspaper	Media & Information	324,000 visitors/day
	Baltimore Business Journal	United States	Newspaper	Media & Information	324,000 visitors/day
	Birmingham Business Journal	United States	Newspaper	Media & Information	324,000 visitors/day
	Boston Business Journal	United States	Newspaper	Media & Information	324,000 visitors/day
	Business First of Buffalo	United States	Newspaper	Media & Information	324,000 visitors/day
	Charlotte Business Journal	United States	Newspaper	Media & Information	324,000 visitors/day
	Chicago Business News [Chicago, IL]	United States	Newspaper	Media & Information	324,000 visitors/day
	Cincinnati Business Courier	United States	Newspaper	Media & Information	324,000 visitors/day
	Business First of Columbus	United States	Newspaper	Media & Information	324,000 visitors/day

	Dallas Business Journal	United States	Newspaper	Media & Information	324,000 visitors/day
	Dayton Business Journal	United States	Newspaper	Media & Information	324,000 visitors/day
	Denver Business Journal	United States	Newspaper	Media & Information	324,000 visitors/day
	Houston Business Journal	United States	Newspaper	Media & Information	324,000 visitors/day
	Jacksonville Business Journal	United States	Newspaper	Media & Information	324,000 visitors/day
	Kansas City Business Journal	United States	Newspaper	Media & Information	324,000 visitors/day
	Los Angeles Business from bizjournals	United States	Newspaper	Media & Information	324,000 visitors/day
	Business First of Louisville	United States	Newspaper	Media & Information	324,000 visitors/day
	Memphis Business Journal	United States	Newspaper	Media & Information	324,000 visitors/day
	Business Journal of Greater Milwaukee	United States	Newspaper	Media & Information	324,000 visitors/day



MEMORANDUM

To: Reporters and Editors

From: [Keith Chu](#), Office of Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden, D-Ore.

Date: December 1, 2017

Re: Wyden Statement on ITC Hardwood Plywood Vote

Senate Finance Committee Ranking Member Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., today praised the International Trade Commission's 4-0 vote confirming that dumped and subsidized plywood are harming American workers.

"Subsidized and dumped Chinese hardwood plywood imports have devastated American producers of hardwood plywood and their workers, as well as communities in Oregon and throughout the country that depend on mill jobs. I welcome the unanimous vote of the International Trade Commission today, which leaves no doubt that America's hardwood plywood producers are entitled to trade relief under U.S. law."

Senator Wyden led a [letter](#) and [testified](#) in support of U.S. hardwood plywood producers before the Commission in October. Today's decision follows several improvements to U.S. trade remedies law that were championed by Senator Wyden as part of trade legislation passed and signed into law within the last two years.



Reps. Walden and DeFazio applaud tariffs to protect U.S. hardwood plywood market

Duties to be levied on Chinese hardwood lumber market to counteract unfair trade practices

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Reps. Greg Walden (OR-02) and Peter DeFazio (OR-04) today applauded the U.S. International Trade Commission’s (ITC) final 4-0 vote confirming that the U.S. hardwood plywood industry has been, or is threatened to be, materially injured by unfairly subsidized Chinese imports.

Today’s ruling will activate final antidumping and countervailing duties on Chinese hardwood plywood imports as determined by the Department of Commerce earlier this year. The application of these duties will provide much-needed relief to Oregon mills.

“For too long, hardwood plywood mills in Oregon have suffered from the unfair trade practices China has used to corner this vital market and threaten family-wage jobs in our state,” said Reps. Walden and DeFazio. “Today’s announcement by the ITC is welcome news that will protect U.S. timber jobs and sends the clear signal that using illegal trade practices to hurt American companies, cost American jobs, and harm our timber-dependent communities is unacceptable. We applaud the thorough investigation conducted by the Department of Commerce into this matter and the ITC’s subsequent affirmative ruling, and will continue to work together to protect manufacturing jobs in Oregon and throughout the United States.”

“Our company, as members of the Coalition for Fair Trade of Hardwood Plywood, is pleased with the results of this ruling,” said Joe Gonyea, III, Co-Chair of the Board for Timber Products. “This strong ruling publicly reinforces what we have known for years about unfair Chinese subsidies and dumping of inferior products into the U.S. Market. We are greatly appreciative of the bipartisan support from our Oregon congressional delegation, led in the House of Representatives by Greg Walden and Peter DeFazio, throughout this effort.”

Last year the Coalition for Fair Trade of Hardwood Plywood, representing the U.S. hardwood plywood industry, filed a petition with the U.S. government seeking full enforcement of U.S. trade laws against China’s abusive trade practices. Last month, the Department of Commerce issued final determinations on antidumping duties of 183.6 percent and countervailing duties of up to 194.9 percent after completing an extensive investigation into China’s unfairly traded hardwood plywood imports. Today’s ruling by the ITC will allow these duties to be fully enforced.

In October, Reps. DeFazio and Walden led a [bipartisan letter](#) to the ITC in support of an investigation into China’s illegal trade activity. Additionally, on October 26 Reps. DeFazio and Walden both testified before the ITC at their hearing on illegal Chinese hardwood plywood imports. Rep DeFazio’s testimony can viewed [here](#). Rep. Walden’s testimony can be viewed [here](#).

Chinese hardwood plywood imports increased 22 percent from 2014 to 2016 and another 26 percent during only the first half of 2017.

Oregon is the largest producer of hardwood plywood products in the United States.



Reps. DeFazio and Walden Applaud Tariffs to Protect U.S. Hardwood Plywood Market

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ITC Provides Relief from Illegal Chinese Imports to Northeast Kingdom's Columbia Forest Products

Washington, DC - Following four years of advocacy by Rep. Peter Welch (D-VT), the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) today provided long overdue relief to a key employer in the Northeast Kingdom.

Columbia Forest Products, which maintains a manufacturing facility in Newport, Vermont, has been struggling to compete with illegal Chinese imports. In a unanimous ruling, the ITC voted 4-0 to impose significant tariffs on dumped and subsidized imports of Chinese hardwood plywood.

"Today's decision is great news for the employees of Columbia Forest Products," said Rep. Welch. "The company and its employees have been reeling from subsidized and illegal competition from China. This important decision will level the playing field for the company, preserve jobs, and ensure its continued contributions to the regional economy."

In 2012, the company, a hardwood veneer and plywood manufacturer, filed a petition with the ITC protesting the dumping of cheap and illegal Chinese hardwood and veneer products that undercut its business in Vermont and around the country.

In 2013, Rep. Welch personally [testified](#) before the Commission on the company's behalf. In addition, Welch helped lead two Congressional letters of support for the industry to the Commission, [one in 2013](#) and [one this year](#).

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FULL TEXT

U.S. finds harm from hardwood plywood imports from China, duties to remain

Reuters

Reuters Staff

December 1, 2017

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-china-plywood/u-s-finds-harm-from-hardwood-plywood-imports-from-china-duties-to-remain-idUSKBN1DV5NV>

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. International Trade Commission said on Friday it had made a final finding that hardwood plywood imports from China harm U.S. producers, locking in duties on the imports for five years.

The Commerce Department last month found hardwood plywood from China was being subsidized and dumped in U.S. markets, and set an anti-dumping duty of 183.6 percent and anti-subsidy duties ranging up to 194.9 percent.

The actions follow petitions from six privately owned U.S. plywood producers over the imports, which the department estimates totaled \$1.12 billion in 2016. The products are used in wall panels, kitchen cabinets, table and desk tops and flooring.

ITC APPROVES TRIPLE-DIGIT DUTIES ON CHINESE HARDWOOD PLYWOOD

POLITICO

Megan Cassella

December 4, 2017

<https://www.politico.com/morningtrade/>

ITC APPROVES TRIPLE-DIGIT DUTIES ON CHINESE HARDWOOD PLYWOOD: The [first trade remedy case](#) filed after Trump took office has now worked its way through litigation. The result was a 4-0 U.S. International Trade Commission vote Friday in favor of triple-digit countervailing and antidumping duties on hardwood plywood imports from China, valued at more than \$1.2 billion in 2016.

The ruling was a victory for a coalition of hardwood plywood producers in Oregon, North Carolina and New York, as well as for Timothy Brightbill, a partner at Wiley Rein, which represented the group. “This vote reflects years of hard work and commitment from coalition members, congressional allies, and partners to address the challenges faced by the U.S. industry,” Brightbill said in a statement. For details on the duties, click [here](#).

Oregon lawmakers, plywood producers hail U.S. tariffs on Chinese hardwood plywood

The Register-Guard

Ed Russo

December 2, 2017

<http://registerguard.com/rg/business/36209055-63/oregon-lawmakers-plywood-producers-hail-u.s.-tariffs-on-chinese-hardwood-plywood.csp>

Oregon politicians and wood products executives on Friday applauded the U.S. International Trade Commission’s decision to impose tariffs on the imports of Chinese hardwood plywood.

In a 4-0 vote, the ITC confirmed that the U.S. hardwood plywood industry is being harmed by unfairly subsidized Chinese imports.

The ITC vote will activate tariffs on Chinese hardwood plywood imports by the Department of Commerce of 183.6 percent for antidumping and countervailing duties up to 194.9 percent.

The imposing of these duties will “provide much-needed relief to Oregon mills,” Reps. Peter DeFazio, D-Ore., and Greg Walden, R-Ore., said in a joint news release.

Oregon is the largest producer of hardwood plywood products in the United States.

The antidumping and countervailing duty cases were filed on behalf of the Coalition for Fair Trade of Hardwood Plywood, a group of six manufacturers, including Springfield-based Timber Products Co., Eugene-based Murphy Plywood Co., Eugene-based States Industries and Springfield-based Roseburg Forest Products. Four of the six petitioning companies are based in Oregon, according to the ITC.

“This strong ruling publicly reinforces what we have known for years about unfair Chinese subsidies and dumping of inferior products into the U.S. market,” said Joe Gonyea, III, co-chairman of the Timber Products board of directors, in a written statement. “Our domestic producers can finally compete on an even playing field.”

In April, the commerce department found that the Chinese government was unfairly subsidizing hardwood plywood producers and imposing countervailing subsidies on Chinese hardwood plywood exports, according to the Coalition for Fair Trade of Hardwood Plywood.

In October, DeFazio and Walden wrote a letter to the ITC supporting an investigation into China's illegal trade activity. The representatives also testified before the ITC.

Chinese hardwood plywood imports increased 22 percent from 2014 to 2016 and another 26 percent during the first half of 2017, the representatives said.

"Today's announcement by the ITC is welcome news that will protect U.S. timber jobs and sends the clear signal that using illegal trade practices to hurt American companies, cost American jobs, and harm our timber-dependent communities is unacceptable," DeFazio and Walden said.

NEK's Columbia Forest Products gets relief from illegal Chinese imports

Vermont Business Magazine

Unidentified

December 1, 2017

<http://www.vermontbiz.com/news/2017/december/01/neks-columbia-forest-products-gets-relief-illegal-chinese-imports>

Vermont Business Magazine Following four years of advocacy by Representative Peter Welch (D-VT), the US International Trade Commission (ITC) today provided long overdue relief to a key employer in the Northeast Kingdom. Columbia Forest Products, which maintains a manufacturing facility in Newport, Vermont, has been struggling to compete with illegal Chinese imports. In a unanimous ruling, the ITC voted 4-0 to impose significant tariffs on dumped and subsidized imports of Chinese hardwood plywood.

"Today's decision is great news for the employees of Columbia Forest Products," said Welch. "The company and its employees have been reeling from subsidized and illegal competition from China. This important decision will level the playing field for the company, preserve jobs, and ensure its continued contributions to the regional economy."

In 2012, the company, a hardwood veneer and plywood manufacturer, filed a petition with the ITC protesting the dumping of cheap and illegal Chinese hardwood and veneer products that undercut its business in Vermont and around the country.

In 2013, Welch personally [testified \(link is external\)](#) before the Commission on the company's behalf. In addition, Welch helped lead two Congressional letters of support for the industry to the Commission, [one in 2013\(link is external\)](#) and [one this year](#).

Verdict is in: China dumped subsidized plywood, injuring U.S. mills, ITC rules

Woodworking Network

Bill Esler

December 1, 2017

<https://www.woodworkingnetwork.com/news/woodworking-industry-news/verdict-china-dumped-subsidized-plywood-injuring-usmills-says-itc>

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The International Trade Commission (ITC) issued its final determination, activating significant tariffs - nearly 200 percent - on some on imports of Chinese hardwood plywood, voting 4-0

that the domestic industry is materially injured, or threatened with material injury, by reason of these dumped and subsidized imports.

The trade group Coalition for the Fair Trade of Hardwood Plywood, which initiated efforts to get tariffs on Chinese plywood twice before times, commended the unanimous decision by the ITC, as "meaningful relief" for the U.S. hardwood plywood manufacturers. The Coalition says 42 mills have closed many more have had to reduce capacity, with a loss of 52,000 jobs in the U.S., and \$2 billion in wages.

Timber Products pleased by ITC ruling on Chinese plywood imports

Woodworking Network

Bill Esler

December 1, 2017

<https://www.woodworkingnetwork.com/wood/panel-supply/timber-products-pleased-itc-ruling-chinese-plywood-imports>

Springfield, Ore. – Timber Products Company, a member of the Coalition for Fair Trade of Hardwood Plywood, says it is pleased with the positive ruling by the U.S. International Trade Commission on the antidumping (AD) and countervailing duty (CVD) investigations on hardwood plywood from China.

The Department of Commerce's determination after a full-year investigation into China's unfair trade practices led commencement by the Department of Commerce of the antidumping and countervailing duty investigations of certain hardwood plywood products imported from China.

"Our company, as members of the Coalition for Fair Trade of Hardwood Plywood, is pleased with the results of this ruling," said Joe Gonyea, III, Co-Chair of the Board for Timber Products. "This strong ruling publicly reinforces what we have known for years about unfair Chinese subsidies and dumping of inferior products into the U.S. Market. Our domestic producers can finally compete on an even playing field."

In April 2017, the Department of Commerce preliminarily found that the Government of the People's Republic of China was unfairly subsidizing its hardwood plywood producers and imposing countervailing subsidies on its hardwood plywood exports. At that time, the preliminary countervailing duties ranged from 9.89 to 111.09 percent, and in June 2017, announced preliminary antidumping duties of 57 percent or higher. In November 2017, the Department of Commerce adjusted the margin calculations for the final determination, increasing the rates for anti-dumping to 183.36 percent, and increasing the rates for countervailing duties to range between 22.98 to 194.90 percent.

The antidumping and countervailing duty cases were filed on behalf of the Coalition for Fair Trade of Hardwood Plywood, a group of six producers and manufacturers that are committed to safeguarding the U.S. hardwood plywood industry and its thousands of workers.

Founded in 1918, Timber Products Company produces a wide range of diversified wood products. Best known for its hardwood plywood, the company is committed to environmental sustainability and offers a fully integrated approach to manufacturing with company-owned forestland, nine manufacturing facilities, an import division and a nationwide transportation division.

ITC recommends duties on Chinese hardwood plywood imports

American Shipper

Chris Gillis

December 4, 2017

<https://www.americanshipper.com/main/news/itc-recommends-duties-on-chinese-hardwood-plywood-69887.aspx?source=Little4>

The U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) on Friday voted 4-0 to apply antidumping and countervailing duties on imports of Chinese hardwood plywood entering the United States.

The commission determined that these imports harm domestic producers since they are dumped on the U.S. market at less than fair value and receive subsidies from the Chinese government.

As a result of the ITC's affirmative determinations, the Commerce Department will issue antidumping and countervailing duty orders on imports of this product from China.

The commission also made a negative finding concerning critical circumstances with regard to imports of this product. As a result, imports of hardwood plywood from China will not be subject to retroactive antidumping or countervailing duties.

In October, the ITC held a hearing regarding imports of Chinese hardwood plywood and heard testimony from numerous U.S. producers and company executives, as well as congressmen. Earlier this month, Commerce made final determinations against Chinese hardwood plywood and set an antidumping duty of 183.6 percent. Commerce also set countervailing duties ranging up to 194.9 percent for these imports.

The Coalition for the Fair Trade of Hardwood Plywood praised the ITC's action.

"We greatly appreciate today's affirmative injury determination, which confirms that illegal trade practices from China will not be tolerated," said Tim Brightbill, the coalition's trade counsel, in a statement. "This vote reflects years of hard work and commitment from coalition members, congressional allies, and partners to address the challenges faced by the U.S. industry."

"This puts American interests first by standing up to the illegal imports of Chinese hardwood plywood," said Kip Howlett, president of the Hardwood Plywood Veneer Association. "We are thankful for the hard work of the commission and the Department of Commerce in recognizing the significant unfair trade practices of the Chinese hardwood plywood industry and the injury it has caused U.S. producers."

The coalition said many U.S. hardwood plywood manufacturers have been forced to operate at less than 50 percent capacity due to the rise of Chinese imports in recent years. Chinese hardwood plywood imports arriving in the United States increased 22 percent from 2014 to 2016, and rose another 26 percent during the first half of 2017. In 2016, these imports from China were valued at \$1.12 billion.

U.S. ITC finds material injury in hardwood plywood case

Furniture Today

Thomas Russell

December 4, 2017

<http://www.furnituretoday.com/article/548631-us-itc-finds-material-injury-hardwood-plywood-case/>

WASHINGTON – The U.S. International Trade Commission has issued a final ruling in the hardwood plywood case, affirming that the U.S. manufacturers have been materially injured by low-priced and subsidized imports of Chinese-made hardwood plywood.

The 4-0 ITC vote on Dec. 1 paves the way for the imposition of duties on hardwood plywood produced in China, which an ITC investigation determined are being dumped into the U.S. at unfair and subsidized prices.

Earlier this month the U.S. Department of Commerce also made a final determination regarding Chinese made hardwood plywood, setting antidumping duties of 183.6% and countervailing duties up to 194.9%. The ITC vote means these duties can move forward on the hardwood plywood shipments, which are used in goods such as shelving, RVs, cabinetry and small amount of domestically produced furniture.

The antidumping duties address unfair pricing tactics and the countervailing duties address Chinese government subsidization of Chinese manufacturers.

The case was filed in 2016 on behalf of a group of six domestic hardwood plywood producers known as the Coalition for Fair Trade of Hardwood Plywood. That group pushed for a U.S. government investigation into the matter due to the impact that unfairly priced hardwood plywood imports have had, particularly on the domestic industry, including manufacturing jobs and the overall financial well-being of U.S. hardwood plywood producers.

“This decision demonstrates that the U.S. Government will not tolerate unfair trade practices and will support American manufacturing and workers,” said Kip Howlett, president of the Hardwood Plywood Veneer Association. “This puts American interests first by standing up to the illegal imports of Chinese hardwood plywood. We are thankful for the hard work of the Commission and the Department of Commerce in recognizing the significant unfair trade practices of the Chinese hardwood plywood industry and the injury it has caused U.S. producers.”