

Welcome Home, Tire Jobs

With aggressive trade enforcement, America is winning back jobs

President Obama, with the support of a bipartisan group of senators and members of Congress, has helped to secure a level playing field for American tire workers and production facilities.

Last September, for the first time, Section 421 relief was authorized by the president, and tariffs were placed on some Chinese tires to help secure American jobs and production. The bold action has been a major victory for America's workers, domestic producers and rules-based international trade.

Enforcing Trade Laws Works

Before the tire relief: U.S. production, capacity utilization, jobs and shipments of tires all were dropping through the floor from 2004 to 2008, while Chinese tire imports to the United States were up 215 percent over the same period. That's because Chinese production is aided by heavy subsidies, performed under lax labor and environmental conditions and boosted by export rebates and currency manipulation.

After the tire relief: U.S. output is up 15 percent and domestic facilities that compete with Chinese tire imports are hiring back workers all over the nation, in states like Ohio and Arkansas. Meanwhile, imports from China are down by 34 percent, with the Chinese consuming more of what they make.

More American Jobs

- The Cooper Tire plant in Texarkana, Ark., has 250 new hourly hires, thanks to the 421 action. The plant is running seven days a week and production is up 20 percent.
- At Cooper Tire & Rubber in Findlay, Ohio, 100 new hourly employees have been hired since the tariffs went into effect. Operations there have returned to a seven-day work schedule and production has increased 20 percent.
- Goodyear plants producing tires covered by the 421 case have hired 130 new workers in 2010, and are working an average of 20 percent overtime.
- At Michelin plants manufacturing tires under the BF Goodrich and Uniroyal brands, operations are running seven days a week, overtime is up to 15 percent and 115 new production workers have been hired since the start of 2010.



For more American jobs, keep the tire relief in place, stop China's currency manipulation and aggressively enforce America's trade laws.