



SAG Monthly Action Focus

This issue: Chinese Tariffs



February 28, 2017

February is going out like a lion and that is not the weather!

February's announcement by the US International Trade Commission is now old news in that the commission has determined the domestic truck and bus tire industry has not suffered material injury because of Chinese imports.

United States International Trade Commission (USITC)

The USITC is headed by six Commissioners who are nominated by the President and confirmed by the U.S. Senate. No more than three Commissioners may be of any one political party. Currently three Democrats and three Republicans serve as Commissioners.

The current Commissioners of the USITC are and the vote Statistics-Chinese Tariffs:

Commission Members	For	Against	Recused
• Rhonda K. Schmidlein, Chairman	X		
• David S. Johanson, Vice Chairman		X	
• Irving A. Williamson	X		
• Dean A. Pinkert			X

- [Meredith M. Broadbent](#)
- [F. Scott Kieff](#)

X
X

The Commissioners serve overlapping terms of nine years each, with a new term beginning every 18 months. The Chairman and Vice Chairman are designated by the President from among the current Commissioners for two-year terms. The Chairman and Vice Chairman must be from different political parties, and the Chairman cannot be from the same political party as the preceding Chairman.

The USITC staff of about 365 individuals includes international trade analysts (investigators and experts in particular industries), international economists, attorneys, and technical support personnel.

Since the ruling that made its way to the Tire Media's daily e-mails, one of our Twenty Group members, Jason Lightbody from Houska Automotive, Fort Collins Colorado reached out to me expressing their concern and anger to what it will do to the Tire Industry market and to the employment of US workers. He asked that we send letters of challenge to the President and the appropriate local government politician to reconsider their decision.

In the last 10 days I have had discussions with numerous Industry leaders to acquire a better understanding of the ramifications they perceive the Industry will be affected.

In a discussion with Roy Littlefield (Executive Vice-President-Tire Industry Association) last week, he repeated his remarks made to the media that the Association represents both sides of the fence on this issue and will remain neutral.

In a discussion on Friday of last week with one of the leading Retread Manufacturers, his remarks were the concern of the history and the havoc Chinese products have played on the Retread market and how it will have a greater negative impact without the tariffs.

Today I have had discussions with representatives of the United Steel Workers and their legal counsel on view points, actions and a greater explanation of how it happened.

If the vote were to include all six members of the Commission, the vote would most likely have been a tie of which there would have been no change in the ruling of March 2016.

Dean Pinkert Recused himself from voting due to his last day on the commission is today, February 28, 2017. In his vote last year he voted for the Tariffs and if he would have voted the same, he would have tied the vote.

The final report will be posted online by March 15th.

When attending sporting events at the home teams event center, the wave to distract the opponent team comes in the form: "It's time to make some noise"!

It's time for those in the Tire Industry that have been, currently are and will be affected by the decision of the ITC to **"MAKE SOME NOISE"**! With the new administration focused on keeping and creating new jobs for the American worker and stabilizing "Fair Trade", we need to be heard.

If you have an interest in adding to our list of support letters or wanting the list of members on the committee, send me a request via e-mail at: info@sagttwentygroup.com or filling out a request on our web site contact page at: <http://www.sagttwentygroup.com/contact-us.aspx>.

Two critical issues that need to be in your message:

1. Reconsider or rescind the decision and keep the Tariffs in place.
2. Fill the vacancy on the commission as quickly as possible to prevent the same thing happening to other industries.

Who to send your communication to:

President Donald Trump

Vice President Mike Pence

Elected State Representatives & Senators

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