

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

October 3, 2012

The Honorable Ron Kirk
Ambassador
Office of the United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Kirk:

I am writing to express my concern regarding a financial package recently offered by the provincial government of Nova Scotia to Pacific West Commercial Corporation, the buyers of a paper mill in Port Hawkesbury, Nova Scotia.

Initial reports indicate that this financial rescue package may not be consistent with Canada's current international trade obligations. Therefore, I respectfully request a full USTR review of the province's financial assistance package to determine whether any improper actions have been taken, as well as swift action should any violations be discovered.

As you know, the Port Hawkesbury mill competes both directly and indirectly with American paper mills, including several in Northern Michigan. Improper government assistance to the Port Hawkesbury mill, which reportedly has the capacity to produce as much as 400,000 tons of supercalendered paper each year, could seriously disadvantage paper mills that produce comparable paper, such as those in Manistique, Escanaba, and Quinnesec, Michigan.

Thank you for your consideration and prompt attention to my concerns. I look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure American economic competitiveness.

Sincerely,



Dan Benishek M. D.
Member of Congress
Michigan's First District

DB/jv