

To whom it may concern... and it should concern all of us.

My name is John Wentworth and I am the President of Moosehead Manufacturing Company with plants in Monson and Dover Foxcroft. We began making solid hardwood furniture in 1947 and have been in continuous operation since then. We are a third generation family business and many of our woodworkers are second, third and even fourth generation craftsmen and women.

The impact of imports and offshoring on the domestic furniture industry have been well publicized. Scores of U.S. furniture plants have closed resulting in the loss of thousands of jobs. In 2003 the annual market share of wood household furniture imports climbed to 51.8% according to the government figures. It was the first year that imports made up more than half of all wood furniture shipped in this country. Through the first half of 2004, imported furniture's market share grew to 52.8%. Imports are projected to grow to 60% by 2008. Wood imports from China were up 23.6% in the first half of 2004, accounting for \$2.1 billion of the \$4.5 billion worth of all us wood furniture imports. This growth continued in the face of an antidumping campaign led by a group of American bedroom manufacturers against China.

In short, half of all wood furniture sold in the United States is imported and China is responsible for half of all the imported furniture... that is it is equal to the rest of the world combined!

On the home front, Moosehead has seen it's market share erode significantly in the last four years primarily due to the effect of cheap imports. In 2000 we employed 254 employees and today we are employing 168. The implications are clear and disturbing especially for rural Maine communities that depend upon the forest products industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to present a few comments.

Sincerely,

John Wentworth

president

Moosehead Manufacturing Company

FEB 03 2005 13:11 FR MOOSEHEAD MFG