

Thanks to the Commissioners for the opportunity to testify today on this important issue for Oregon. I'm Greg Walden, and I represent the people of Oregon's Second Congressional District.

Oregon is blessed with highly productive timber resources that have made it our nation's wood basket. These assets have made Oregon companies a central part of U.S. hardwood plywood manufacturing as well.

Currently, Oregon is the headquarters for four hardwood plywood manufacturers. We have eight operating mills that provide 2,400 good, family wage jobs.

In August I visited one of these mills in my district, and have visited others in the past. The story is the same no matter where I go. The Oregonians who work in these facilities are hardworking Americans who take pride in the work they do and the products they produce.

Unfortunately, it appears their Chinese competition may be cheating with its exports and has overtaken 54 percent of this valuable U.S. market. That's not right, and it's not fair.

In fact, the Department of Commerce's investigation into this matter found that Chinese exporters sold products for as much as 114 percent below fair value.

These tactics are threatening American jobs, as Chinese imports in January of 2017 were up 40 percent over the year before.

Now, this isn't about standing in the way of trade, or trying to block Chinese products from the market. In Oregon, where we've worked to develop extensive export markets for a wide variety of products, we understand the importance of trade. However, it must be fair.

These hardwood plywood companies, and the people who work there, are always innovating to stay competitive – efficiently making a high quality product. I've seen some of the technology they've implemented first hand and it is impressive.

Efficiency and innovation will not help them compete without a level playing field. It doesn't appear they have that today with regards to imports of hardwood plywood from China.

That's why today I stand before you representing my district, and on behalf of the 2,400 Oregonians employed in hardwood plywood manufacturing.

Please take a close look at the data on the impacts we've seen in Oregon and across the country from these unfair practices by Chinese manufacturers. I encourage you take steps to bring some parity to this situation by reaffirming the preliminary investigation and recommend duties on Chinese hardwood plywood imports.