

MARIA CANTWELL  
WASHINGTON



United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

October 6, 2020

The Honorable Eugene Scalia  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Scalia:

I am writing in support of the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) petition filed by the Association of Western Pulp and Paper Workers Union (AWPPW) to assist the 150 workers, including on-site contractors, who were laid off by the Ponderay Newsprint Company in Usk, Washington on June 25. These workers were displaced due to the shifting of newsprint production to Canadian paper mills.

Since its founding in 1989, the Ponderay Newsprint Company has served as one of the largest employers in Pend Oreille County, a rural county that has been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic and corresponding economic crisis. The Pend Oreille County unemployment rate in August, the most recent data available, was 11.5 percent, a nearly 50 percent increase since March. It is critical that the workers laid off by Ponderay Newsprint receive the retraining and reemployment resources available through TAA certification. Trade Adjustment Assistance will allow them to recover more quickly, support their families, and continue to contribute to their communities and our economy.

I urge you to review this TAA application in a timely manner, consistent with all applicable rules and regulations, to ensure that these trade-affected workers receive the assistance they need to obtain employment services and maintain their financial stability. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Maria Cantwell".

Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator