

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 26, 2016

The Honorable Penny Pritzker
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Pritzker:

I am writing to you in connection with the Department of Commerce's recently initiated third administrative review of the antidumping duty order on large residential washers ("LRWs") from Korea.

The calculation of accurate dumping margins is paramount under our antidumping law, and product comparisons grounded in appropriate "model matches" is fundamental to fulfilling that mandate. While I understand the Department has a preference for maintaining the same model match criteria throughout the life of an order, it is imperative that the Department modify those criteria when circumstances warrant.

Recent developments in the washers industry suggest that the Department should reconsider its approach to "model matching." For example, since the original investigation, the Department has distinguished washers that differ only slightly in capacity - by as little as 0.1 cubic feet. I understand that washers sold today have much greater capacity such that such slight differences in capacity may not be commercially significant. In addition, the Department should consider the implications of recent changes to Department of Energy regulations governing capacity testing procedures and energy efficiency standards on the Department's product matching criteria such as capacity. These changes took effect during the first quarter of 2015.

Given the importance of these developments in assessing the price comparability of washers, I urge the Department to carefully consider comments presented by parties and to modify its matching methodology as appropriate to account for these recent developments in the third administrative review.

I appreciate the Department's work in investigating unfairly traded imports. I trust that your team will focus its attention on this important issue and continue to effectively administer the antidumping order on LRWs from Korea. I would also appreciate an update on the status of this review later this year.

Sincerely,



Rob Portman
U.S. Senator