

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 6, 2016

The Honorable Thomas E. Perez
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington DC 20210

Dear Secretary Perez,

We write in support of the petition for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) filed by USW (United Steelworkers) Local Union 1888 for the former employees of Climax Manufacturing Company in Lowville, New York. The petitioners inform us that TAA would support 156 employees who lost their jobs at Climax Manufacturing Company due to the plant closing.

Located in Lewis County for over 100 years, Climax Manufacturing was a leading manufacturer of specialty folding boxes for food and retail products. April 1, 2016, Climax Manufacturing announced the closing of the plant and the termination of their 156 employees effective on that date. This news has dealt a devastating blow to New York's North Country region. These layoffs will greatly impact Lewis County, which already suffers from the second highest unemployment rate of any county in New York.

The petitioners inform us that Climax Manufacturing's sales were adversely affected by an increase in imports of specialty boxes. We must provide workers who are adversely impacted by trade and lost their jobs by no fault of their own with the assistance they need to reenter the workforce and get back on their feet.

Certification of this petition would open up eligibility for much-needed federal benefits, such as job training, income support, job search and relocation allowances and other critical assistance, for these dislocated workers. TAA would provide impacted employees with needed financial support to learn new skills or further develop an existing skill set, allowing them to take advantage of opportunities for new employment.

We urge you to give this petition your full consideration and ensure that all available resources are made available to assist dislocated workers and help the broader region recover from this loss. Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator