



Nikki R. Haley
Governor

SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Robert M. Hitt III
Secretary

September 23, 2015

The Honorable Penny Pritzker
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Pritzker,

My understanding is that a valued member of our South Carolina business community – Resolute Forest Products – a producer of specialty papers and a large employer in Catawba, South Carolina—is currently the subject of a countervailing duty investigation at the Department of Commerce involving imports of super calendared paper. My further understanding is that the investigation may involve manpower training assistance from a governmental entity.

Resolute has advised me that the Department's investigators may have found that a Resolute subsidiary received manpower training assistance from a government entity. Resolute believes that this information is uncertain, and that the law requires under the circumstances that it not be considered in the investigation but, rather, in a later review.

Without opining on legal requirements or the investigation itself, I can say that Governor Nikki Haley and I have worked tirelessly to create a competitive business climate in our state that encourages companies to create new jobs. One tool that we commonly use to encourage companies to grow and create new jobs in South Carolina is manpower training assistance. This assistance is essential to the development and maintenance of a highly skilled workforce that matches the needs of the businesses that call South Carolina home.

In our view, manpower training should never be an impediment to international trade. We offer it widely and believe other governments do so as well because it is an extension of education that is important not only for companies, but especially for the individuals who receive it. We would not want manpower training discouraged anywhere, in South Carolina or elsewhere.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Hitt", written over a white background.

Robert M. Hitt III

RMH/km/vw