

A RESOLUTION urging the United States Department of Commerce to study unfair trade practices that involve certain types of paper being sold at less than fair value in United States markets by some foreign producers.

WHEREAS, the paper, pulp, and forestry industry is a vital sector of the United States economy and is responsible for maintaining hundreds of thousands of high-paying jobs that produce billions of dollars in direct economic impact; and

WHEREAS, paper manufacturers in the United States have been under increasing competition from China, Indonesia, Brazil, Portugal, and Australia; and

WHEREAS, domestic paper manufacturers welcome fair and open competition as a way to increase efficiency and maintain low prices; and

WHEREAS, selling exported products at less than fair value while increasing prices in a producer's domestic market to sustain profitability, which is a practice commonly known as "dumping," is an unfair trade practice that is detrimental to the long-term economic health of all; and

WHEREAS, since 2000, the United States government has found conclusive evidence of certain paper products being dumped in the domestic market and has imposed duties on these products to discourage this illegal trade practice; and

WHEREAS, since 2011, eight United States paper mills have either closed or curtailed operations, eliminating thousands of jobs and directly impacting their supporting communities; and

WHEREAS, domestic manufacturers of uncoated paper are now under threat from illegal trade practices by foreign competitors, which has been caused in part by a 40 percent increase in the past year alone from five named countries, which represents a nearly 4 percent increase in the total domestic market share in that time period; and

WHEREAS, the jobs created by domestic paper producers and the enormous positive economic impact these companies have on communities are too valuable to be lost to unfair trade practices;

NOW, THEREFORE,

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

➔Section 1. The House of Representatives respectfully urges the United States Department of Commerce to expeditiously investigate unfair trade practices involving certain types of uncoated paper being sold in United States markets at prices less than the cost of product in the exporters' home country, to estimate the direct and indirect impact these trade practices have on domestic producers of paper products, and to recommend the imposition of duties on imports of paper products that are unfairly priced.

➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to the President of the United States, each member of the United States Congress, and the Secretary of the United States Department of Commerce.