



## **PRESS STATEMENT**

### **Textile CEOs Urge Candidates to Elaborate More Fully on Plans to Stop U.S. Manufacturing Job Loss and to Boost Competitiveness**

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North Carolina textile industry CEOs urged candidates for public office to put forth more detailed plans to stop U.S. manufacturing job loss and to boost competitiveness at telephone conference call media event held on May 1.

Allen Gant, CEO of Glen Raven Inc. of Glen Raven, North Carolina said, "America cannot have a prosperous future without a healthy domestic manufacturing sector. That's why all candidates must more fully spell out where they stand on such key manufacturing issues such as stopping job loss and boosting the competitiveness of the U.S. government's manufacturing policy."

Illustrating the challenges facing North Carolina's economy, the American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition (AMTAC) released a comprehensive report that showed a severe decline in manufacturing investment in North Carolina and that the state has been losing high-wage jobs and replacing them with low-wage jobs. It also broke out manufacturing job gain/loss by sector for North Carolina's twelve largest metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs).

Reacting to the report, Gant continued, "North Carolina can't keep trading good manufacturing jobs for lower paying service sector jobs and expect to grow its economy as fast as it needs to grow."

"Americans haven't stopped buying manufactured goods; they just aren't buying as many from North Carolina as before because of trade cheats like China. America must fix its broken trade policy and put unemployed North Carolina factory workers back to work. The best medicine to mitigate the pain of any recession is more people on the production lines," added Jason Copland, President and CEO of Copland Industries of Burlington, North Carolina.

Amy Daugherty, owner of Miami Thread of Drexel, North Carolina concurred by saying, "America can't keep running up its 'China credit card' buying foreign manufactured goods. The United States has got to have a manufacturing policy to encourage people to buy more products made by North Carolinians and our fellow Americans. If we don't, America will leave its future generations owing an unsustainable debt to China and our other foreign bankers."

Noting that U.S. manufacturing's competitiveness concerns are fostered by Chinese and other foreign-country predatory trade practices such as currency manipulation, rebates of value-added (VAT) taxes, and outright export subsidies, Anderson Warlick, CEO of Parkdale Inc. said, "A comprehensive policy response from the administration, all presidential candidates, and the Democratic and Republican leaderships in Congress to address obstacles to U.S. manufacturing competitiveness urgently is needed. Without this, the sectors of North Carolina's economy subject to international competition will continue to bleed jobs."

Regarding the currency manipulation issue, the CEOs and the National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO), the National Textile Association (NTA) and AMTAC thanked North Carolina congressional delegation members Howard Coble, Robin Hayes, Walter Jones, Sue Myrick, and Heath Shuler for cosponsoring H.R. 2942, the Ryan-Hunter the Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act of 2007, the strongest legislation introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives to discourage currency manipulation. They also thanked U.S. Senator Elizabeth Dole of North Carolina for voting for an amendment during the Senate Banking Committee's consideration of currency manipulation legislation that would have made currency manipulation actionable as an illegal subsidy under U.S. countervailing duty law.

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AMERICAN MOLD BUILDERS ASSOCIATION RESPONDS TO  
AMERICAN MANUFACTURING TRADE ACTION COALITION  
NORTH CAROLINA MANUFACTURING JOBS REPORT

Medinah, IL: The American Mold Builders Association (AMBA), in collaboration with the American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition (AMTAC), is speaking out about the lack of emphasis being placed on the decline in manufacturing and consequently, in high-paying manufacturing jobs, by politicians running for President of the United States. Manufacturing's declining investment in the U.S. and in the American worker is having dire consequences on the economy as high-paying manufacturing jobs are being replaced by lower paying service-sector jobs, resulting in a lower standard of living not just for the people in North Carolina but for people nationwide.

"This report clearly shows the dismal effects of Free Trade agreements on an economy that used to be known as the manufacturing giant of the world," said Steve Rotman, President of the AMBA and President/owner of Ameritech Die & Mold Inc. ( Mooresville, NC). "We as the AMBA, are trying to get this message out to the public as well as existing and future elected officials."

What is happening in North Carolina is happening across America as U.S. manufacturers are lured offshore by cheap labor, lax regulatory policies, border-adjusted tax schemes such as the VAT, export subsidies, non-tariff barriers, and U.S. trade policy that encourages offshore investment.

The members of the AMBA have felt the pain of the loss of manufacturing as approximately one-quarter of U.S. mold manufacturers have gone out of business thanks to declining demand from U.S.-based manufacturing companies. The AMBA is standing strong with the AMTAC and other manufacturing trade organizations to get the attention of our political leaders in the federal government to take notice of the fact that U.S. manufacturing is being decimated, along with the heart and soul of the American worker.

"We applaud the AMTAC for their continued activity to raise the issue of the devastating effects from the loss of manufacturing due to flawed trade policy," Rotman stated. "Every day that candidates are not focused on fixing manufacturing is another day hurting North Carolina."

Political problems require political solutions, and only the federal government has policy jurisdiction over foreign trade issues. Therefore it is up to Congress and the Executive Branch to address them. Congress must pass the Ryan-Hunter bill, strong anti-currency manipulation legislation that contains CVD and anti-dumping trade remedies. AMBA urges Congressional action to pass this bill immediately.

"The issues that we in manufacturing face on an ongoing basis are a solemn reminder of the failure of these Free Trade agreements to deliver all the positives that were promised by the politicians," Rotman said. "We hope that acting with the AMTAC will draw the plight of North's Carolina's manufacturing job losses to the attention of those in Congress who sit in a stalemate and do nothing."

The American Mold Builders Association is an industry trade organization founded and run by American mold manufacturers. For more than 30 years, the AMBA has been the voice of the mold manufacturing industry, supporting its members in Best Business Practices, promoting its member companies to qualified OEM mold purchasers, and educating OEMs, molders and others of the value and benefits of buying molds made in the USA by American mold builders.

Robert Earnhardt, President, Superior Tooling Inc., Wake Forest, North Carolina

“I’m totally frustrated with the trade issues. We’re building tools – special fixturing – that we have to send to Malaysia and China, and molds we’re shipping to Mexico, but we can’t get things out of this country. We gave up and now ship everything to our customers in the U.S. and let them find a way to ship it to their plants in Mexico, China and Malaysia. The difficulty we have exporting things is incredible.

“We continue to go up against China on molds, and they continue to quote prices that don’t even cover the cost of our materials. How in the world can they do this? While we are seeing some companies that are so frustrated dealing with China that they’ve decided to have molds built by us, it still amazes me – we just can’t compete in this type of climate.

“The government wants to help stimulate the economy by giving us each \$600 to spend on stuff. That’s an insult to the American people’s intelligence. If they want to help us, give us back our manufacturing jobs and let us work for what we want. Give companies tax breaks and tax credits for keeping jobs in the U.S., not for closing plants and taking the jobs to China.”

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