

# The Play by the Rules Act

*U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV) introduced legislation to hold China accountable for ignoring trade rules and harming American workers and businesses*

**The problem:** Our trade laws are designed to stop trade partners from tipping the scales in their favor and forcing American workers to compete at a disadvantage. These laws allow U.S. customs officials to collect anti-dumping duties (ADs) on products sold below market value, or countervailing duties (CVDs) on products that received government subsidies in their production.

These rules are widely used and largely followed by WTO members. China, however, has refused to play by these rules. China is engaged in a sophisticated and government-backed effort to circumvent our trade rules—at the expense of American workers. China closely monitors our AD/CVD cases as they progress, and alters their products slightly to get around the rules, violating the spirit of the law, if not the letter. In fact, of all the anti-circumvention petitions *ever filed* for ‘minor alterations,’ almost 70 percent are against China.

**The solution:** No other country is engaged in this level of circumvention. As a nonmarket economy, China uses its vast government resources to help its companies evade U.S. trade laws. In order to address the unprecedented nature of Chinese cheating, Senator Baldwin’s legislation provides the Commerce Department additional flexibility when reviewing anti-circumvention petitions filed against nonmarket economies like China. This flexibility will allow Commerce to better combat China’s attempts to cheat our workers and businesses.

This bill is supported by the United Steelworkers and Columbia Forest Products.

“The Chinese government has subsidized plywood dumped by Chinese companies in American markets. Last year, the U.S. took action and assessed anti-dumping duties, which allowed Columbia Forest Products to re-hire workers in Wisconsin, Maine, Vermont, North Carolina, Oregon, Virginia, and West Virginia. Unfortunately, China is circumventing the duties, threatening to undo our progress. Senator Baldwin’s legislation provides the Commerce Department with the tools we need to crack down on trade cheating from China. We fully support her efforts and thank her for her work,” **Gary Gillespie**, *Executive Vice President of Columbia Forest Products*.