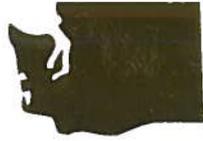


JAY INSLEE  
Governor



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December 23, 2015

The Honorable Thomas E. Perez  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Avenue Northwest  
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Secretary Perez:

I write to encourage the U.S. Department of Labor's swift and favorable consideration of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers and United Steelworkers' applications for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA), and Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA), to assist workers and contractors affected by the recently-announced curtailment of the Alcoa Intalco Works facility in Ferndale, Washington, and the Alcoa Wenatchee Works facility in Malaga, Washington.

Last month, Alcoa Inc. said that low international aluminum prices would force it to scale back smelting and refining operations across the country. Included in these actions are Alcoa's plans to idle the two aforementioned smelters in Washington State, which could lead to the loss of jobs for 880 employees at the two facilities by March 2016. I have personally met with workers, local leaders, and the company. Understandably, many families in the community are worried about what this means to them and what resources will be available to help them.

As indicated in the workers' submitted TAA and ATAA applications, there is clear evidence that unfair international competition has adversely affected Alcoa's ability to compete in the global marketplace. In particular, overproduction of aluminum in China, and imports from neighboring North American countries, have placed the domestic aluminum industry at a significant disadvantage, leading to Alcoa's decision to idle smelters. The case for federal assistance to assist laid-off workers through these programs administered by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment & Training Administration is clear and compelling.

In particular, I urge your swift approval of these applications so that these important programs are available prior to the start of the winter school schedule, and workers can immediately begin retraining activities in January 2016.

For decades, Washington has supported Alcoa's presence in the state and the manufacturing jobs and communities that it has supported. This includes tax preferences designed to help the



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company's Washington smelters compete, which I worked with the Washington State Legislature to extend this past legislative session. My office has also consistently advocated for affordable, long-term power contracts with the Bonneville Power Administration, to help sustain the company's energy-intensive manufacturing output.

Since we do not know when the global aluminum market will improve, I have directed my Cabinet to do everything possible to help support workers who could soon be laid off. The Washington State Employment Security Department is working with the Washington State Department of Commerce, the state Workforce Board, and local Rapid Response teams to ensure workers can easily access unemployment insurance benefits and new employment and training options that they may need. The Department of Ecology is also working to keep Alcoa's permits current so the facilities can be ready to restart should market forces change.

Federal TAA and ATAA assistance are vitally-important tools needed to support these communities and help get these Washingtonians back on the job. I urge your swift approval of these applications.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,



Jay Inslee  
Governor

cc: The Honorable Patty Murray, U.S. Senator  
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, U.S. Senator  
The Honorable Rick Larsen, U.S. Representative  
The Honorable Dave Reichert, U.S. Representative  
The Honorable Suzan DelBene, U.S. Representative  
Mr. Dale Peinecke, Commissioner, Washington State Employment Security Department  
Mr. Mark Lowry, President, Northwest Washington Central Labor Council  
Mr. Kelly Woodward, President, Wenatchee Aluminum Trades Council

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