

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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The Honorable Edith Ramirez
Chairwoman
U.S. Federal Trade Commission
600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20580

Dear Chairwoman Ramirez:

I write on behalf of my constituents with concern over misleading claims of products labeled "Made in the USA." I thank you for your past diligence in investigating mislabeled country of origin claims, but more must be done to prevent fraudulent origin labeling practices by retailers and manufacturers alike. With fraudulent "Made in the U.S.A." labels, manufacturers and retailers are taking advantage of Americans' willingness to pay more for the quality that is associated with an American-made product while harming manufacturers in my state and elsewhere.

As you know, businesses are only allowed to include a "Made in USA" label if "all or virtually all" of a product's parts, processing, and labor are of U.S. origin. Under the FTC Act, the Commission has the authority to investigate and bring legal action against fraudulent or misleading claims that a product originated in the United States.

This standard applies to both manufacturers and retailers, who may include additional product origin labels after manufacturing is complete. I have particular concern over fraudulent labels that are placed on products by retailers on outer packaging or in advertising for products. At Walmart, for example, Truth in Advertising recently found 200 total examples of foreign-made products mislabeled as American-made on items ranging from disposable spoons, to children's toys, to cosmetic sponges. These are dangerous abuses of the "Made in America" label, and the Commission's effective enforcement of product origin regulations are crucial to ensuring honest labeling and the protection of genuine U.S. manufacturers in Connecticut and throughout the country.

We realize these regulations are difficult to enforce, especially while some bad actors choose to disregard or circumvent proper origin labeling standards. However, I ask to the greatest extent possible, you dedicate resources to these fraudulently labeled products. Further, I ask that you please communicate with me what resources Congress can provide to help you carry out more robust enforcement. Without enhanced enforcement practices, these abuses will continue to hurt real American manufacturers. Thank you for your work and your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator