

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 13, 2019

The Honorable Alexander Acosta  
Secretary of Labor  
U.S. Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Acosta:

We write to express our strongest bipartisan support for the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) application filed by the Maryland Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (DLLR) on behalf of workers at Verso Corporation's paper mill in Luke, Maryland (case # TA-W-94771). TAA will be essential in providing the approximately 675 Verso employees the resources they need to gain employment after the closure of the mill.

Verso announced on April 30, 2019, that it would close its paper mill in Luke, Maryland effective June 30. The work there has specialized in producing coated freesheet paper. The company cited "a significant influx of imports" when announcing its decision to shut down operations, and the purpose of TAA is to assist workers who lose their job for this reason.

The paper mill has been an economic driver for the area around Luke for 131 years, employing multiple generations of workers from a region that includes residents of Maryland and West Virginia. Many of these individuals have devoted decades of their lives to the mill, which has dominated the local job market. In order to find suitable and meaningful employment opportunities in the future, they will need retraining and education services offered as part of TAA.

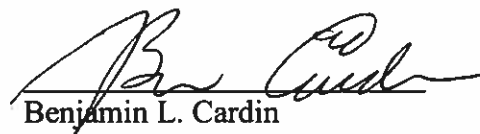
We would also note that the Luke paper mill provides essential services for the Town of Luke, including drinking water and sewage treatment, and its closure will have a significant detrimental impact on the surrounding community.

We ask that you give the TAA application for the workers at the Verso paper mill in Luke, Maryland, your utmost and expeditious consideration. The community is facing an incredible challenge, and access to these resources will be essential in charting the path forward.

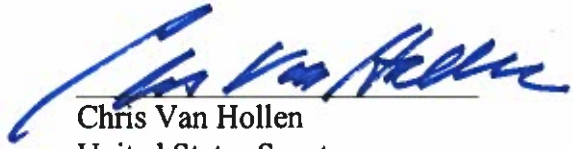
Sincerely,



David Trone  
Member of Congress



Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator



Joe Manchin III  
United States Senator



Shelley Moore Capito  
United States Senator



David B. McKinley, PE  
Member of Congress