

**COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES**

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
READINESS – RANKING MEMBER

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
SEAPOWER AND EXPEDITIONARY FORCES

JUDICIARY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME, TERRORISM,
AND HOMELAND SECURITY

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMERCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE LAW



J. Randy Forbes
United States Congress

4th District, Virginia

November 17, 2009

2438 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6365

425-H SOUTH MAIN STREET
EMPORIA, VA 23847
(434) 634-5575

2903 BOULEVARD, SUITE B
COLONIAL HEIGHTS, VA 23834
(804) 526-4969

505 INDEPENDENCE PARKWAY
LAKE CENTER II – SUITE 104
CHESAPEAKE, VA 23320
(757) 382-0080

Jane Oates
Assistant Secretary of Employment and Training Administration
U.S. Department of Labor
Frances Perkins Building
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Oates:

I am writing to request the benefit of meeting with you at your earliest possible convenience regarding the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) petition process.

On November 4, 2009, International Paper filed a TAA petition related to the paper mill closing in Franklin, Virginia, which will lead directly to the loss of 1,100 jobs. It is my understanding that the Department of Labor has a goal of rendering a decision on petitions within 40 days of the day they are submitted. I would appreciate your insight into the manner in which each petition is reviewed and changes to that process in light of expansions to the TAA that went into effect earlier this year. Like many Members of Congress, my constituents have been greatly affected by the economic downturn. I want to ensure they have the necessary information and tools to benefit from TAA programs and assistance.

Please contact me or Will Hupman from my staff at (202) 225-6365 / will.hupman@mail.house.gov regarding this request. Thank you in advance for your consideration. I look forward to hearing from you. With kind personal regards, I am

Yours truly,

J. RANDY FORBES
Member of Congress