



## Alabama Department of Labor

### News Release

For Immediate Release: February 25, 2013

#### **Employees of Interstate Brands Corporation May Be Eligible for Additional Benefits**

MONTGOMERY – Current and former employees of Interstate Brands Corporation (IBC), a wholly owned subsidiary of Hostess Brands, Inc., operating at locations throughout Alabama who were engaged in activities related to the supply of baked goods (breads, buns, rolls, snack cakes, doughnuts, sweet rolls, etc.) may be eligible for benefits under the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Act of 2011. A petition filed on behalf of workers of IBC in Alabama was certified by the U.S. Department of Labor on Feb. 19, according to Alabama Department of Labor Commissioner Tom Surtees.

The U. S. Department of Labor found that the workers may have become unemployed as a result of increased imports. The petition covers periods of unemployment occurring on or after Nov. 20, 2012, and before the termination date of Feb. 19, 2015. Under the TAA Act, displaced workers may be eligible for benefits such as training, job search and relocation assistance, and Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC). For additional information on the HCTC, they can call toll free 866-628-HCTC (4282), or visit the IRS website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) (IRS Keyword: HCTC).

If workers have exhausted their cash benefits under other state and federal unemployment compensation programs, they could be eligible for additional weekly benefits equivalent to the amount they were receiving under other programs. In order to receive Trade Readjustment Allowance (TRA) benefits, workers must be enrolled in training the later of 26 weeks after the certification date or after

their last qualifying separation or a waiver of the training requirement must be granted by the state Employment Service Division of the Alabama Department of Labor.

Interstate Brands Corporation (IBC) was also certified for Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA). Employees who are 50 years of age and older, who obtain full time employment after their separation from the affected employer, may be eligible for allowances under the ATAA program.

Surtees stated that potentially eligible individuals will be notified individually as soon as they are identified.

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*Members of the media seeking more information should contact Will Whatley at (334) 353-1548.*