



Alabama Department of Labor

News Release

For Immediate Release: February 6, 2013

Employees of Heritage Footwear, Inc., May Be Eligible for Additional Benefits

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA –Current and former employees of Heritage Footwear, Inc., located in Fort Payne who were engaged in activities related to the production of athletic socks may be eligible for benefits under the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) Act of 2011. A petition filed on behalf of workers of Heritage Footwear, Inc., was certified by the U.S. Department of Labor on Jan. 29 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 Dec. 12, 2011 and before the termination date of Jan. 29, 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, call toll-free 866-628-HCTC (4282), or visit the IRS website at 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.

Heritage Footwear, Inc. 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.