



Alabama Department of Industrial Relations

News Release

For Immediate Release: November 4, 2011

Employees of WestPoint Home May be Eligible for Additional Benefits

MONTGOMERY- Alabama Department of Industrial Relations Director Tom Surtees announced today that current and former employees of WestPoint Home, Inc. who were engaged in activities related to the production of bedding products may be eligible for benefits under the federal Trade and Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act of 2009 (TGAAA). This also includes on-site leased workers from Manpower of Greenville, Alabama. According to Surtees, a petition filed on behalf of workers of WestPoint Home, Inc. was certified by the U.S. Department of Labor on April 12, 2011.

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 January 19, 2010 and before the termination date of April 12, 2013. Under the Trade and Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act of 2009, displaced workers may be eligible for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) 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 (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 Industrial Relations.

WestPoint Home, Inc. and the on-site leased workers from Manpower were also certified for Re-employment Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA). Employees 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 RTAA 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 needing more information should contact Public Information Officer Jenna Murphy at (334) 353-1538.