

U.S.SENATOR

Debbie STABENOW

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Sen. Stabenow Tours Cadillac Manufacturing Facility, Calls for Trade Prosecutor To Stand Up for US Businesses

Cadillac--Today, US Senator Debbie Stabenow visited Cadillac to tour B&P Manufacturing and discuss how the creation of a US Trade Prosecutor would help stop unfair trade practices by foreign competitors and create jobs for American manufacturers. Senator Stabenow was joined by Keith Merchant, the President of B&P Manufacturing.

"Manufacturing is central to our way of life in Michigan. It built our middle class and provides the kind of good paying jobs we need," said Senator Stabenow. "We have to level the playing field for our manufacturers, stopping the flow of counterfeit goods into the US and cracking down on countries that violate our trade laws. In a fair fight, our businesses and workers can compete with anyone."

B&P Manufacturing is a manufacturer of aluminum material handling equipment such as hand trucks, dock boards & plates, and walk ramps, primarily servicing the Food & Beverage industry across the United States. A true Michigan success story, B&P Manufacturing employs 60 people and has grown at an average of 20% since 2002. B&P Manufacturing could be doing even better and producing more jobs if Chinese manufacturers were not openly producing counterfeit B&P products for U.S. consumers. Enforcement of current anti-dumping laws against the Chinese could increase the number of B&P Manufacturing sales by upwards of 50 percent, potentially doubling the size of the company.

"Since 2002, my wife, Gale, and I and have worked as a team along with our 60 dedicated employees. Gale as CEO directs daily activities, while I focus on sales and improvements in manufacturing. During this period, we have grown an average of 20% annually and anticipate doubling our size within the next 5 years," said Merchant. "Our success is based upon developing new high quality products, with people who care utilizing state of the art machinery and engineering. It is exciting having Senators Stabenow working with manufacturers in Michigan to assure our continued success. Unfair foreign competition has forced many industries out of the U.S. We will not be one of them."

Senator Stabenow has led the fight to create a US Trade Prosecutor to enforce our trade agreements, stand up for our manufacturers, and eliminate illegal trade practices by other countries. She has introduced bipartisan legislation to create the position of Chief Trade Prosecutor within the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to enforce our trade agreements and to eliminate the illegal trade practices of other countries that are costing American jobs.

The creation of a US Trade Prosecutor is just one of the many actions that Senator Stabenow has taken to protect our good paying jobs and help our manufacturers, from passing a law that created \$2 billion in tax breaks for companies that say 'no' to outsourcing and create jobs here at home to helping crack down on foreign counterfeit goods by requiring that all machinery, tooling and supplies used to make counterfeit items be destroyed as part of anti-counterfeit enforcement.

"The people of Michigan know what is at stake," stated Stabenow. "People are working harder but feeling squeezed from all sides. Higher gas prices, skyrocketing health care costs, and now people's pensions are even in danger. We need to stand up for our manufacturers and workers, not let foreign countries cheat. We're in a fight for our way of life in Michigan, and it's a fight we have to win—and a fight I know we will win!"

For more information on Senator Stabenow's accomplishments, agenda and campaign please visit www.stabenowforsenate.com.

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