I am very concerned over the adverse effects that cheap foreign imports, principally from Japan, are having on the welfare of our domestic hardwood plywood and veneer industries and their many employees. During the past month I have received considerable correspondence from employers and employees of these vital industries in South Carolina expressing grave concern for their jobs and the recent cutbacks in working hours.

According to recent figures I have received, foreign imports have increased 1,000 percent since tariff reductions were effected on these products in 1951 and have now reached the point where they constitute 46.6 percent of total plywood consumption in the United States.

Because of the importance of these vital industries to South Carolina and the nation in time of peace as well as war, I am giving this matter serious study in order to determine what action should be taken to alleviate this current crisis.

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