

The New York Times



January 25, 2010

LETTERS

The Glass Industry, Domestic and Foreign

To the Editor:

Re "[Another Shifting Industry](#)" (Business Day, Jan. 19):

Contrary to your article, the American glass industry is not dead. Carlisle PPG, a company in the state of Pennsylvania, bid for and lost the contract for the World Trade Center site.

The decline of the domestic glass industry has the same root causes as the overall decline of American manufacturing: unfair Chinese economic policies that heavily favor export-led growth and a lack of political will to properly enforce our nation's trade laws.

For years, China has fed its unprecedented economic expansion through the undervaluation of its currency. China's pegging of its currency to the dollar has caused a surge in the United States trade deficit and has been a major factor in the loss of American manufacturing jobs. According to a [report](#) by Dr. Usha C. V. Haley of Harvard University, the domestic glass industry alone lost 40,000 jobs from 2001 to 2008.

While I commend the Obama administration for its recent decision to impose tariffs on Chinese tires, the lack of enforcement of our trade laws over the previous decade played a key role in the loss of American jobs. That is why I have urged the Obama administration to directly address the decline of the American glass industry with the Chinese.

The effect of Chinese subsidies and market manipulation can't be underestimated. Bob Casey
U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania
Washington, Jan. 20, 2010

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To the Editor:

Your article about China's booming glass industry is correct in one respect: the playing field is not level for world glass production. China is brazenly cheating its way to the top through vast subsidies and dumping.

It's no wonder, then, that American glass producers and their workers are losing ground. But the answer is not simply to walk away from manufacturing. To avoid a "jobless recovery," the administration needs to enforce United States trade laws and prevent China's mercantilist policies from dismantling another American industry.

Scott N. Paul
Executive Director

Alliance for American Manufacturing
Washington, Jan. 20, 2010

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