

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS AND OVERSIGHT
U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HEARING CHARTER

American Decline or Renewal? Part 2—The Past and Future of Skilled Work

Tuesday, June 24, 2008
1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
2318 Rayburn House Office Building

Purpose:

This hearing will focus on how the United States can maintain and expand high-skilled, high-paying jobs here at home. To examine this question, which is central to the Nation's competitiveness in a globalized economy, the hearing will survey the efficacy of past and current efforts to aid dislocated workers and communities. Manufacturing, the traditional engine of value-added production in our economy, has been deeply affected by globalization, and service industries – even those relying on highly trained personnel – are coming under increasing pressure from foreign competitors.

The Hearing will also assess the structure of international trade in order to predict how well domestic efforts at retraining and reinvestment can be expected to succeed in the future. For the health of the national economy, and the scientific and technological enterprises dependent on it, we must learn what our workers and communities need. The goal must be, as the former chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, Laura D'Andrea Tyson, put it, "to produce goods and services that meet the test of international competition while our citizens enjoy a standard of living that is both rising and sustainable."

The Committee on Science and Technology has jurisdiction that directly relates to the competitiveness of the United States through our authorization of programs that directly contribute to innovation. The Committee has a specific interest in the health of the Nation's manufacturing industries through its connection to the National Institute of Standards and Technology, whose budget it authorizes. In addition, the Committee annually authorizes the expenditure of billions of dollars to support scientific research and the training of the next generation of scientists and engineers, and has taken steps to support retraining of workers for high tech employment opportunities.

This hearing has been designed to help the Committee in identifying measures that might increase the likelihood of high-value-added activities remaining, increasing, and succeeding within U.S. borders. By so doing, it will contribute to the future health of America's economy and the future prosperity of its citizens.

The hearing will take testimony on the impact on workers and communities when jobs move abroad; problems with the current program of Trade Adjustment Assistance in

supporting workers whose jobs have been sent off-shore; successes of using community colleges, working with local businesses, to retrain displaced workers; the need for rethinking the supports and our approach to global trade if high-paying employment and a good standard of living are key economic policy goals for the country.

Witnesses:

Dr. John Russo is the coordinator of the Labor Studies Program at the Warren G. Williamson School of Business Administration of Youngstown State University in Ohio, and the founder and co-director of Youngstown State's Center for Working-Class Studies. He is co-author with Sherry Linkon of *Steeltown, USA: Work and Memory in Youngstown*.

Mr. Frank H. Morgan is an attorney at the Washington, DC, firm of White & Case LLP. He has pled before the International Court of Trade in New York City on behalf of workers whose petitions for Trade Adjustment Assistance have been denied by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Mr. Howard F. Rosen is the founder and executive director of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Coalition and a visiting fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington, DC. He is a leading expert on and advocate for programs designed to aid dislocated workers.

Ms. Jeanie Moore is vice president for Continuing Education Programs at Rowan-Cabarrus Community College in Salisbury, NC. Her work on the effort to revive Kannapolis, NC, has been recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor, which in 2005 presented her with its Workforce Innovations Award for "Serving Special Populations in the Workplace."

Dr. Thomas I. Palley is the founder of the Economics for Democratic & Open Societies Project in Washington, DC. He earlier served as the chief economist of the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission and as director of the Open Society Institute's Globalization Reform Project.

Ms. Diana Furchtgott-Roth is a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute in Washington, DC. She earlier served as chief economist of the U.S. Department of Labor and as chief of staff of the President's Council of Economic Advisers. She writes a weekly column for the *New York Sun*.