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Office of the Secretary **Washington, D.C**.

On the topic of "Made in the U. S. A." labeling:

Making **75%** made **in the** USA **eligible for the label is misleading** due to the dilution of what the label means. There are many are many cases where foreign companies "assemble" their products here while maintaining a "closed market" with not only the individual component parts but also their labor and management. Opening the label up to this would only encourage our already huge trade deficit to get larger.

As a consumer concerned with the large trade deficit and the loss of technology, I would like to see labeling much like **that** proposed for the auto industry. Manufacturers would show country of origin in percentage of parts, company, and labor enabling the consumer to make an informed choice.

I have read countless **reports of our labor being let** go and plants closing to move to other countries where the labor is cheaper. They are also usually able to do things we have outlawed in this one. What good does it do to fight for better working conditions if the **company** can just make **75%** here and still call it "Made in the U. S. A". I have **also** seen in most instance quality and productivity has suffered netting the companies **nothing** in the long run.

Unemployment has also been cited as an indicator all is well. I suspect most of these jobs are lower paying service jobs instead of the higher paying industry ones.

I see this as just one more attempt to undermine the U.S. consumer's support of his or her own country's industry by special interest groups of foreign origin.

I will continue to buy American Made products, where we haven't run them completely out of business, as often as possible.

Thanks for listening,

Matthew K. Brotherton