

## **Dole calls for limits on Chinese imports**

03/30/2005

By: Rob Boisvert, News 14 Carolina

CHARLOTTE, N.C. – At one time, North Carolina was unmatched in textile production. The industry still contributes \$24 billion to the state's economy and employs 100,000 people, but since 2000, the state has lost 70,000 jobs.

Sen. Elizabeth Dole, who has been outspoken about the issue for years, is now calling on the U.S. Commerce Department to impose limitations on Chinese textiles.

"Our textile industry has been devastated, no question about it," North Carolina's senior senator said. "Pillowtex goes down just 20 miles from my hometown of Salisbury and 5,000 people lose their jobs. It's just heartbreaking.

Many people are going to need retraining. Many of them have been in those mills since they were teenagers and they are going to need some remedial education – a GED – as well as some new job training."

Dole says the first thing that must be done is to "stop the hemorrhaging." She says the amount of illegal goods coming in from China is of great concern and a "textile tracer" she has been working on would stop the illegal goods from being imported.

The senator says she has worked hard for appropriations for funding to provide additional customs agents who will oversee textiles.

Last week, the secretary of commerce announced that import data will be provided much earlier so the textile industry can determine when a surge is expected to occur. This will allow them to take action more quickly and effectively.

"What China's doing will overrun not only our textile industry, but many others around the world," Dole said. "That's why we need that data early."

Dole says she has legislation pending that says if the Chinese keep manipulating their currency to undercut U.S. manufacturers, a tariff of 27.5 percent should be levied against them.

Posted with permission of News 14 Carolina