

Volume I  
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Win A Hat



[www.standupforsteel.org](http://www.standupforsteel.org)



[www.americanmanufacturing.org](http://www.americanmanufacturing.org)

## Action Matters III – December 19, 2007

**ReUNION joins AAM:** The ReUNION Project began as an effort to reach out to retirees on important public policy issues. As part of the labor/management committee Stand Up for Steel Coalition, ReUNION grew into a grassroots lobbying and education project that operates in 22 states and has twenty-five thousand activists. As of November 2007, The ReUNION Project became part of the Alliance for American Manufacturing (AAM), a broader labor-management group that includes the members of Stand Up for Steel and other manufacturers employing members of the United Steelworkers. AAM's current mission focuses on public education as opposed to lobbying. Scott Paul, the Executive Director of AAM has welcomed The ReUNION Project and forecast a broader range of issues and activities under the AAM banner. "ReUNION has already proven its value as part of the team that has made our "Keep It Made In America" Town Hall series a success. Adding grassroots capability to AAM increases our effectiveness and gives ReUNION a larger opportunity to grow as an organization", Paul noted. The ReUNION Project will continue, as needed, to support Stand Up for Steel on its trade and legislative lobbying efforts and this newsletter will continue to report on those efforts on behalf of Stand Up For Steel.



**Trade Enforcement Action Pushed to the 2008 Calendar:** After promising that much needed trade enforcement legislation was on the 2007 Congressional Calendar, leadership is now indicating that it will slip into next year. While the House and Senate found the time to pass a Free Trade Agreement with Peru, they have yet to address the enforcement of our existing laws. We have to continue to write letters, editorials and emails to Congress and keep up the drumbeat for trade enforcement action.



**Trade Enforcement Pressure Brings Interesting Results:** In spite of the Congressional delay on trade enforcement legislation, the rising chorus of voter displeasure over current trade policy has brought interesting progress. The Commerce Department reversed years of policy and now says the Government can use anti-subsidy laws to address trade violations in non-market economies, including China. The Chinese government *has* agreed to reduce *some* subsidies it provides exporters. Presidential debates are now addressing trade policy issues, in contrast to earlier debates at which the issue barely surfaced on the subject was avoided. These are all responses to bi-partisan pressure from average Americans who are fed up with excuses over the loss of good jobs, the size of the trade deficit, and the decline of our manufacturing sector.

**AAM Town Hall Meeting Series Draw Huge Audiences and Media Coverage:** On September 25<sup>th</sup>, the Alliance for American Manufacturing kicked off its first "Keep It Made In America" Town Hall Meeting in Manchester, NH. AAM has now held four more events in Des Moines, IA; Columbus, OH; Pittsburgh, PA; Buffalo, NY and Rock Hill, S.C. One more event is scheduled Newport News, VA. The Town Hall Meetings focus on the loss of good jobs, the decline of our manufacturing sector and the underlying trade policies that are eroding this part of our economic future. The Town Hall Meetings are hosted by John Ratzenberger (the beloved "Cliff Claven" from Cheers and current producer of the Travel Channel's "Made in America" workplace tour series). Each Town Hall Meeting features a panel of community members who discuss the impact of lousy trade policy on their communities. The media coverage has been positive and participants have been urged to take the message to the Presidential and Congressional campaigns and demand answers from all candidates as they come around to seek votes. For a sense of how these events have progressed you can visit our picture gallery of the Pittsburgh event at <http://gallery.mac.com/ikegittlen>



**The Three Key Candidate Questions:** Here are the three questions we are asking Town Meeting participants to ask candidates. You can ask these questions by sending an email to your representatives by clicking [here](#).



- #1 – How will YOU Save American manufacturing jobs?
- #2 – What specific policies will you support to strengthen the American manufacturing base, which is vital to our economic and national security?
- #3 – What steps will you take to enforce our trade laws and hold cheating countries like China accountable?

**China Trade Enforcement DVD Available:** For those who are interested in showing our eleven minute "China Trade and YOU, Enforcing America's Trade Laws" DVD, you can order a copy free of charge by emailing [reunioninfo@usw.org](mailto:reunioninfo@usw.org). You can access more detailed information about ReUNION's trade enforcement efforts at [http://www.standupforsteel.org/reunion\\_home.php](http://www.standupforsteel.org/reunion_home.php).

**Happy Holidays:** The ReUNION Project wishes all our Activists the very happiest of holidays. The best defense of a democracy is an active and aware citizenry. We'd like to extend our appreciation for all the work you've done in 2007 in support of ReUNION, good jobs, strong manufacturing and a future for our children.

