



## **Alabama Department of Labor**

### **News Release**

For Immediate Release: November 28, 2012

### **Employees of WestPoint Home Administration/Engineering May Be Eligible for Additional Benefits**

MONTGOMERY – Current and former employees of WestPoint Home Administration/Engineering Office located in Valley who were engaged in activities related to the production of bedding products, may be eligible for benefits under the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance Act of 2011. A petition filed on behalf of workers of WestPoint Home Administration/Engineering Office was certified by the U.S. Department of Labor on July 19, 2012, according to an announcement by Tom Surtees, Commissioner of the Alabama Department of Labor.

The U. S. Department of Labor found that the workers may have become unemployed as a result of increased imports. The petition covers periods of unemployment occurring on or after May 21, 2012 and before the termination date of July 19, 2014. Under the Trade Adjustment Assistance Act of 2011, displaced workers may be eligible for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) benefits such as training, job search and relocation assistance, and Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC). For additional information on the HCTC, they can call toll free 866-628-HCTC (4282), or visit the IRS website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) (IRS Keyword: HCTC).

If workers have exhausted their cash benefits under other state and federal unemployment compensation programs, they could be eligible for additional weekly benefits equivalent to the amount they were receiving under other programs. In order to receive Trade Readjustment Allowance (TRA) benefits, workers must be enrolled in training the later of 26 weeks after the certification date or after their last qualifying separation or a waiver of the training requirement must be granted by the state Employment Service Division of the Alabama Department of Labor.

WestPoint Home in Valley was also certified for Re-employment Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA). Employees who are 50 years of age and older, who obtain full time employment after their separation from the affected employer, may be eligible for allowances under the RTAA program.

Surtees stated that potentially eligible individuals will be notified individually as soon as they are identified.

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*Members of the media seeking more information should contact Communications Director Tara Hutchison at (334) 242-8616.*