



From the Desk of

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1540 AM Radio WNWR • Philadelphia, PA

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Commentary from Saturday, January 9, 2010

Set An Example!

In the last few weeks shoppers saw for themselves how many well-known American brand name items are being made overseas. I know that it is discouraging to reach for a well-known American brand item, then look on the label to see that it is distributed by an American company, but made overseas. These are **products that had been produced in the U.S.A. for decades, but now are manufactured overseas** due to lower production costs. American businesses have always traded with the nations of the world, but **in recent years outsourcing has been done at the expense of American workers. Such a drastic change should never have been permitted by government, labor and business leaders without insuring full employment for Americans.**

Since we began discussing the Buy American Made Campaign, we have been able to see more clearly how the **devastating downturn in the economy** and the **high unemployment rate** have **affected the well-being of American workers and their families.** Well, we are now in the beginning of a new decade, and our objective must be to **improve the future of American workers and America's economy.** It's time to stop finger pointing about what happened in the past and **take action to restore America's manufacturing base** and the **many jobs that support every level of manufacturing.**

Today, I ask that you **set an example** for the people close to you **by buying only American made products whenever possible** and by letting others know what you purchased and where you purchased it. This will help **support the stores selling American made products** and the manufacturers who employ American workers. As we make our purchases, we have to face the fact that Americans have a higher standard of living, so items made in the U.S.A. may cost a little more. Many foreign countries have a cost advantage over American manufacturers because they don't pay a living wage, don't offer benefits to workers, and do not have to adhere to any safety regulations. The point is that the **low cost items now being sold on the American market are rewarding the companies that outsourced manufacturing,** providing **no benefit to American workers,** and cost no less than when the product was made here in the U.S.A. Take a good **look at every tag and label. Keep American workers in mind every time you make a purchase** and **spread the word** so positive changes can continue to happen.

This is Michael Blichasz. I appreciate receiving your comments and suggestions. You can print out a copy of my commentary, email it to a friend or email me from my Internet site at: AmericanWorkersNeedYou.com or MichaelSupportsAmerica.com.