



From the Desk of

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We Could Restore 15 to 20 Million Jobs

My recent commentary questioning **why sports fan t-shirts, hats and jackets are not made in America** drew many very favorable reactions. The clothing industry was always an enormous source of employment for Americans since the earliest days of our nation's history. However, **in the last 30 years, most clothing industry jobs have been outsourced to foreign countries, costing America between 15 to 20 million jobs** in the clothing and related industries of textiles, footwear and home furnishings. The fact that America has become a sales point for products imported from around the world is an issue that requires our attention.

In the last 30 years, **we went from manufacturing 90 percent of the clothing purchased by Americans to about 10 percent today.** In the process of looking for cheaper products we have signed away large portions of our job base to outsourcing and left Americans with a small percentage of the clothing industry. Most important to note is that **inexpensively-made foreign products are sold to Americans for up to a 1000% markup.** With a 1000% markup on most imported items, I feel that **restoring manufacturing in America with modern technology could be accomplished** and American workers could earn a reasonable wage.

Additionally, because so many job skills have been lost because of outsourcing, some employers say they can't find qualified workers to fill jobs. In order to insure this does not continue, **I urge job seekers to prepare a resume of their qualifications** so that when job opportunities arise in any given industry, they can apply for the job with a written resume to show prospective employers. If you need to upgrade your skills, I encourage you to **seek out job training programs.**

In order for you to better understand why I am promoting the **Buy American Made Campaign**, I ask that you **look at tags on the clothing you're wearing right now to see where they were made.** As you look at the labels, **consider all of the empty manufacturing facilities** that could be back in business and employing Americans if we spent our dollars wisely and spoke up for the **Buy American Made Campaign.** **Your voice and your purchasing choices** are the only way we will see **positive change in America's job base and a revitalization of America's economy and communities.**

This is Michael Blichasz, and I invite you to visit the many links on my Internet site at: AmericanWorkersNeedYou.com. There is an email link on the front page for you to send me your comments and suggestions, or you can log on to: MichaelSupportsAmerica.com.