



From the Desk of

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Look closely at what you buy!

Long before the downturn in the U.S. economy became evident, I urged people to support American made products. The **economic downturn** has now affected everyone in some way and is causing Americans to look more closely at what is happening around them. From the responses I received from my commentaries, **people want to be employed so they can receive a pay check for a job well done, not an unemployment check because American jobs moved abroad.** Now that we can clearly see how many American businesses sold off our well-established manufacturing base or relocated them in nations around the world, people are beginning to react the way they should have 20 years ago.

It's also disappointing to know that **business leaders, labor leaders and government officials did not work together** to keep American industries in the U.S.A. Every time a business considered leaving America a committee made up of **representatives from business, labor and the government should have met to negotiate with companies to persuade them to remain in U.S.** for the benefit of American workers and America's economy. I have not been able to find information about such a committee and welcome you to contact me if you can provide me with information about such efforts. At this point millions of jobs have been lost and **the imbalance between American made and foreign made products on the American market continues to rise.** Quite frankly, there is no easy solution to this difficult matter, but you can **help make a major statement by spending your dollars on products still produced by American businesses and American workers.** It is now up to us, the **American consumers to create the demand for American made items and through our purchase,** encourage growth in American manufacturing. In some cases, so many items are being manufactured outside the U.S.A. that our ability to compete with items like clothing, shoes, toys, appliances and electronics is difficult and in some cases impossible. The next time you are in a store that sells appliances, look around and ask the sales clerks what they have available that's made in the U.S.A. **When you speak up for American made products, you are sending a message of concern to sales clerks and business owners.** From the replies you receive you will hear for yourself just how imported products have taken over the America market place.

As you shop for the holidays, **don't buy on impulse, but seek out the items you need with an American made label.** The loss of jobs to foreign countries did not happen in a year or two, and won't be reversed overnight. But by buying American made, you will at least be helping **maintain existing American jobs and support America's economy.**

This is Michael Blichasz, and as always, I appreciate hearing from you. I welcome your comments and suggestions and ask that you spread the word to your family and friends. You can email me from my Internet site at: AmericanWorkersNeedYou.com or MichaelSupportsAmerica.com.