

Why buy Union-made, American Products?

On a summers day in Philadelphia 1776 our founders signed the Declaration of Independence, officially decreeing the country of America as free and independent from the British government. Since that time America has gone on to be the world's leader in nearly every facet of life including how we are governed. Now in a trying age for America's economy, Americans must bind together and think local first. As people across the country lose their jobs, Americans must stand up, and revolt against foreign made products and help protect American families. Since the dawn of our governmental systems we have formed unions to bind against the powers of the government and make sure our rights are protected. Now, as technology evolves and the opportunity arises to reach for foreign products, we must ask ourselves the value of the American dollar.

By definition a union is supposed to protect a workers' wages as well as their working conditions. By buying the "cheaper" products at chain stores such as K-Mart or Target the American public is in essence enabling and supporting the Communist governments of such places like China. By backing this government you are supplying it with the money necessary to continue their substandard working conditions and use of slave labor. America was founded on the unique principles of freedom and democracy neither of which is being supported when we ignore the American economy, and settle for a foreign "bargain priced" product.

When Unions first arose, workers referred to a union as a form of a brotherhood which protects the rights we were founded upon. When we as Americans over consume we often settle for a product of lesser standards. In the meantime we risk thousands of jobs for the middle class American without even realizing it. By consuming foreign products we are giving up quality and risking exposure to dangerous chemicals and mass recalls of products. Epidemics such as lead paint found in foreign made children's toys or defective Chinese dry wall (found in over 100,000 homes build between 2004 and 2008) should be enough reason alone to support the blue collar American worker. In addition to all the potential danger, we are also trading an American man's job for that of say a ten year old Chinese boy forced into the mills or the fields. As Americans these are not the values we live by, or the standard we set for ourselves so why compromise to save a few cents?

Some may argue that the rare occurrences of malfunction or recall are worth the reward of saving money. However, the sad truth of it is this. I walk into a store and I am disgusted at the amount of foreign made products. It feels like I am bombarded by a massive quantity of items that are simply not made to the same quality as that of American products. To me the value of knowing we pay our workers an honest wage, give them benefits and treat them as respectable humans and not like robots or slaves, are worth the small amount more I pay for an American good. In order to shift our economy back in our favor we must first rethink the value of putting America first. We must once again value the fact that we are investing into our country, our practices and our ideas. We must cherish American jobs, and live home grown, homemade and home spun products. So why it is important to buy Union made American products, the answer is simple: Because you're an American.