

JAY INSLEE  
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
Office of the Governor

June 1, 2020

The Honorable Eugene Scalia  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Secretary Scalia:

I write to encourage the U.S. Department of Labor's swift and favorable consideration of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM) application for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) to assist workers and contractors affected by the recently announced curtailment of the Alcoa Intalco Works facility in Ferndale, Washington.

The Alcoa Intalco Works facility is among Whatcom County's largest employers. Its closure will affect not only the 700 workers directly employed at the facility itself, but many other jobs in the region indirectly supported by the plant's activities. The displacement of the employees of the Ferndale plant is a result, in significant measure, of global trade condition – specifically, increased global supply from countries such as the People's Republic of China and a corresponding reduction in the price of aluminum.

The global trade conditions that have precipitated this curtailment are well documented. In December 2015, I wrote to the Department about the negative impacts caused by low international aluminum prices on workers at two smelting facilities in Washington State, including Alcoa Intalco Works. For decades, Washington has supported Alcoa's presence in the state, and departments of our state government are working to ensure everything that can be done at the state level for these workers is being done. However, as was the case in 2015 when the Department of Labor approved our request for TAA, there is clear evidence that unfair international competition has unfairly harmed these workers. The case for federal TAA certification is similarly clear and compelling.

Federal TAA certification is a vitally important tool needed to support these trade-affected workers and their communities and to help get them the resources they need and deserve. I urge you to engage in a swift review of this TAA application, consistent with all applicable rules and regulations, and join the many voices in support of its approval.

Thank you for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Jay Inslee  
Governor

