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For Immediate Release

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Washington D.C. - Congressman John P. Murtha, Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense, announced today that former employees of Freight Car America are eligible for retraining or wage subsidies under federal programs designed to return trade-affected workers to the work force more quickly.

Workers of Freight Car America, a subsidiary of Johnstown America, who lose their jobs, are eligible for two years to apply for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) and Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA).

These programs are provided to workers who become unemployed because of increased imports or shifts in production to foreign countries. The U.S. Department of Labor determined that production and sales have declined at Freight Car America because of increases in imports of freight rail cars and parts.

Services under TAA include two years of eligibility for income support, relocation and job search allowances, a health coverage tax credit and occupational training. For workers age 50 and older who find new, lower-wage jobs within 26 weeks of separation, ATAA helps bridge the salary gap by providing subsidies of up to half of the difference between the old and new wage levels. Workers may be paid up to a maximum of \$10,000 during a two-year eligibility period.