

June 21, 2006 Murtha statement on Latrobe Brewing agreement

For Immediate Release

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Retraining, wage subsidies approved for Latrobe Brewing workers

Latrobe, PA - U.S. Rep. John Murtha announced today during a visit to Latrobe Brewing that its employees are eligible for retraining or wage subsidies under federal programs designed to return trade-affected workers to the work force more quickly.

Workers of InBev USA, owner of Latrobe Brewing, who lose their jobs are eligible for Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) and Alternative Trade Adjustment Assistance (ATAA), Murtha said during a visit to the plant for an update on efforts by City Brewing of La Crosse, WI, to purchase the plant from InBev.

"We remain hopeful that City Brewing will work out the details to purchase the Latrobe Brewing plant and keep most if not all of the workers employed here," Murtha said. "However, it's good to know that any workers who do lose their jobs will be eligible for assistance."

These programs are provided for workers who become unemployed because of increased imports or shifts in production to foreign countries. InBev USA is a subsidiary of InBev N.A., a Belgian-based company that is the world's largest brewer. Rolling Rock Beer, produced at Latrobe, was the company's only domestic brand of beer. The U.S. Department of Labor determined that imports by InBev have increased and will continue after they stop brewing locally.

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 with 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.

The IEU-Communications Workers of America represents 154 workers at the plant in Locals 144B and 22B.