RESOLUTION

Reaffirming the commitment of Stevens Point to the importance of manufacturing to the local economy and throughout the United States, expressing support for strong enforcement of our trade laws, and expressing support for the domestic coated paper industry and its workers who have been injured by unfair trade practices of foreign producers.

WHEREAS, the economic downturn is having a critical impact on everyday Americans who are struggling to maintain or find jobs in an increasingly difficult environment; and

WHEREAS, over two million manufacturing jobs have been lost since the start of the recession in December of 2007, and well over five million jobs and over 50,000 factories have been lost in the last ten years; and

WHEREAS, in a December 2, 2009, USA Today/Gallup poll, Americans were asked what should be done to create more jobs in the U.S. and the most frequent response was to "keep manufacturing jobs in the U.S."; and

WHEREAS, a strong industrial base is important to our nation's economic and national security, demonstrated by the following: American manufacturing directly employs nearly 12 million Americans and directly supports 8 million additional jobs in other sectors; American manufacturing pays better wages (20 percent on average) than other sectors of the economy; American manufacturers are responsible for two-thirds of research and development investment in the United States; nearly 80 percent of all patents filed come from the manufacturing sector; and

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2009, Appleton Coated LLC, New Page Corporation, Sappi Fine Paper North America and the United Steelworkers Union initiated a trade investigation with respect to unfair trade practices (dumping and subsidization) conducted by Chinese and Indonesian producers of coated paper; and

WHEREAS, dumping occurs when a foreign producer sells into the domestic market for less than the price that producer charges in its home market or when its U.S. prices are below the cost to produce the product and subsidies are financial assistance from foreign governments that benefit the production, manufacture, or exportation of goods; and

WHEREAS, the United States has in place trade laws that allow domestic industry and its workers to petition for relief from unfair trade practices that create an "unlevel playing field" and lead to plant closures and job loss in communities throughout America; and

WHEREAS, the United States International Trade Commission and the United States Department of Commerce are reviewing the paper case and will make determinations as to whether dumping and subsidization have occurred and whether domestic producers and its workforce have been materially injured as a result; and

WHEREAS, imports from the subject countries grew by roughly 40 percent in the first six months of 2009, as compared to the same period in 2008, and domestic shipments dropped by roughly 38 percent; and

WHEREAS, Chinese and Indonesian producers have captured almost 30 percent of our market in coated paper products, double the amount from the previous year; and

WHEREAS, since 2002, roughly 60,000 jobs have been lost in the overall paper sector; and

WHEREAS, the paper case affects 6,000 workers whose jobs are at risk from unfair trade competition; and

WHEREAS, both the Chinese and Indonesian governments have longstanding policies to encourage the development of their paper industries and have provided a host of illegal subsidies to paper producers to give them an advantage over domestically produced goods;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by, the City of Stevens Point, that

(1) a vibrant manufacturing sector is critical to an immediate economic recovery and to the long-term health of Stevens Point and the United States;

(2) free trade cannot occur unless our trade laws are strictly enforced; and

(3) our coated paper industry is the most efficient in the world and its workers can compete with any foreign competition that does not enjoy the benefit of illegal government assistance; and

(4) the United States Department of Commerce and the United States International Trade Commission should hold Chinese and Indonesian producers accountable for unfair trade practices that distort markets, devastate production and employment in the United States, and affect the livelihood of Stevens Point and communities throughout the United States.

APPROVED: _____
Andrew J. Halverson, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
John Moe, City Clerk

Dated: April 7, 2010
Adopted: April 19, 2010