Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 20, 2016

Chairman Meredith Broadbent
International Trade Commission
500 E Street, Southwest
Washington, DC 20436

Dear Chairman Broadbent:

We write today as Members of the Congressional Steel Caucus to encourage you to fully utilize all of the trade enforcement tools provided to you by Congress to address the illegal trade practices of foreign steel producers.

We are concerned by the surge of illegally traded imports that are crippling the American steel industry. Year-end import data for 2015 clearly reflects the severity of the crisis: foreign steel imports took a record 29 percent share of the domestic steel market which resulted in American steel mills reaching only 70 percent capacity utilization. Imports of other steel products were even higher, with imports capturing 44 percent of the pipe and tube market. In 2015, American steel mills shipped 12 percent fewer tons of steel than in 2014, and a number of mills were forced to shut down operations and lay off over 13,500 employees. Across the board and in nearly every sector, excessive levels of imports are leading to plant shutdowns, worker dislocation, and economic losses across the nation.

We believe that American steelworkers make the best steel in the world, and we have an obligation to ensure that the American steel industry is able to compete on a level playing field and meet the demands of our nation's infrastructure, defense, transportation, agriculture, and energy sectors.

Congress has acted by recently passing critical bipartisan legislation that provides the International Trade Commission (ITC) with enhanced tools to combat illegal trade practices. Specifically, Congress passed the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015 (P.L. 114-27), which made important improvements to U.S. antidumping and countervailing duty laws. One such improvement provides the ITC with additional factors it may evaluate when considering injury to the domestic industry.

We urge you to fully utilize the tools provided under P.L. 114-27 and under all of our trade enforcement laws when investigating the following pending steel industry trade cases:

- Cold-Rolled Steel Products from Brazil, China, India, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Russia, and the United Kingdom;
- Corrosion-Resistant Steel Products from China, India, Italy, Korea, and Taiwan;
- Heavy Walled Rectangular Welded Carbon Steel Pipes and Tubes from Korea, Mexico, and Turkey;

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- Hot-rolled steel flat products from Australia, Brazil, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Turkey, and the United Kingdom;
- Welded Stainless Steel Pressure Pipe from India;
- Stainless Steel Sheet and Strip from China;
- Circular Welded Carbon-Quality Steel Pipe from Oman, Pakistan, the Philippines, UAE, and Vietnam;
- Carbon and Alloy Steel Cut-to-Length Plate from Austria, Belgium, Brazil, China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, South Africa, Taiwan, and Turkey

U.S. trade enforcement laws provide the means by which the American steel industry can mitigate the harm inflicted by illegally traded foreign imports. In order for the industry and its workers to obtain full and effective relief, the ITC must aggressively enforce the law to ensure duties that fully offset the amount of unfair trade are ultimately assessed and collected.

We will continue to closely monitor whether the statutory enforcement tools provided under P.L. 114-27 and other trade enforcement laws are fully utilized during your investigations of these pending steel industry trade cases.

Sincerely,

Tim Murphy
Chairman
Congressional Steel Caucus

Peter J. Visclosky
Vice-Chairman
Congressional Steel Caucus

Mike Bost
Member of Congress

Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress

Daniel Lipinski
Member of Congress

Bradley Byrne
Member of Congress

Tom Marino
Member of Congress

Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

Curt Clawson
Member of Congress

Richard Hudson
Member of Congress

Tammy Duckworth
Member of Congress

Jim Rennaci
Member of Congress

Rob Bishop
Member of Congress

Filemon Vela
Member of Congress

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

Charles W. Dent
Member of Congress

Sam Graves
Member of Congress

Joe Barton
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress

Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress

David Joyce
Member of Congress

Mo Brooks
Member of Congress

Joe Wilson
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

Tom Reed
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

Bill Flores
Member of Congress

Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Keith Rothfus
Member of Congress

Steve Womack
Member of Congress

Virginia Foxx
Member of Congress

Steve Stivers
Member of Congress

Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress

James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Scott Tipton
Member of Congress

Brad Ashford
Member of Congress

Robert B. Aderholt
Member of Congress

Michael Doyle
Member of Congress

Robert Pittenger
Member of Congress

Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress

David B. McKinley
Member of Congress

Gregg Harper
Member of Congress

Ryan Costello
Member of Congress

Lou Barletta
Member of Congress

John Yarmuth
Member of Congress

Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress

Patrick Meehan
Member of Congress

David Rouzer
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Rick Crawford
Member of Congress

H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress

Tim Walberg
Member of Congress

John Katko
Member of Congress

John Shimkus
Member of Congress

Rodney Davis
Member of Congress

Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

Marlin Stutzman
Member of Congress

Pete Aguilar
Member of Congress

Mike Kelly
Member of Congress

Mark Sanford
Member of Congress

Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress

Trent Franks
Member of Congress

Gene Green
Member of Congress

Terri Sewell
Member of Congress

Jason Smith
Member of Congress

James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress

Paul Tonko
Member of Congress

Andre Carson
Member of Congress

Todd Rokita
Member of Congress

Harold Rogers
Member of Congress

Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress

Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress

cc: Dean Pinkert, Vice-Chairman, International Trade Commission

Irving Williamson, Commissioner, International Trade Commission

David S. Johanson, Commissioner, International Trade Commission

F. Scott Kieff, Commissioner, International Trade Commission

Rhonda K. Schmidtlein, Commissioner, International Trade Commission