

United States Senate

November 9, 2017

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Ross,

I am writing to inquire about the status of the Department of Commerce's Section 232 national security investigation of steel and aluminum imports.

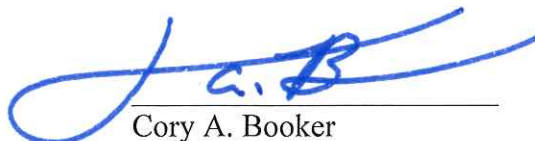
In late April, President Trump instructed you to open a national security investigation under section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 for the purpose of preventing excess steel capacity and surging steel imports. However, statements by the President and officials in the Department of Commerce have created considerable uncertainty as to when the investigation will conclude. In late-May, the President said they would be released in June and, just days later, publicly assured that the 232 reports would be coming "very soon." Several months later, there is no indication as to when the report will be released.

The uncertain timeline has had considerable negative economic impact. Since the investigations were announced, steel imports have risen 21 percent as foreign countries have rushed product into the U.S. market in anticipation of promised action to adjust imports. Further delay only compounds the problem for U.S. manufacturers and workers and threatens America's economic and national security.

I urge you to eliminate this uncertainty and provide a clear and expedited timeline on when the investigations will be completed and when action will be taken.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator