

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 9, 2017

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

Dear Secretary Ross,

We write today regarding the status of the Department of Commerce's ongoing Section 232 investigation of steel and aluminum imports. We are concerned by the lack of information coming from the Administration on this investigation and urge you to provide clarity to the workers and business community in Virginia and across the U.S. by issuing a clear timeline regarding the ongoing investigation.

Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 provides the President with the authority to impose tariffs on imports for reasons of national security. Our national security depends on a strong manufacturing base to ensure the needs of the U.S. can be met or aided by domestic production. Yet the ongoing uncertainty regarding the status of the Section 232 investigation is having the opposite effect.

In the five months after the Administration's notification of the Section 232 investigation, steel imports rose 20% over the previous five months. Recent economic analyses suggest that these trade distortions are a direct result of the continued uncertainty surrounding the Section 232 investigation. While there are interested voices on both sides of the Section 232 investigation itself, there is one area where the voices are united: the ongoing uncertainty is leading to instability in the market and hurting our workers and businesses.

We are deeply concerned that the Administration has indicated that it wants to wait until the completion of tax reform to make its decision regarding the ongoing investigation. We urge you to provide our affected workers and relevant industries the certainty they need by providing a clear timeline as to the status of the investigation.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



MARK R. WARNER  
United States Senator



TIM KAINE  
United States Senator