June 14, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

As your Administration completes its Section 232 review of the national security implications of steel imports, we are writing to express our desire that any response include robust protection to prevent tariff evasion and other foreign practices that have undermined existing trade remedy enforcement actions. Your attention to this matter and advocacy for the domestic steel industry is appreciated.

The domestic steel industry is an indispensable national security asset. In addition to supplying the defense industrial base, domestically-produced steel is also a critical component in other industries important to our nation’s overall physical and economic security, particularly domestic petroleum production.

American steelworkers are among the most productive in the world and can more than compete in a market where rules are transparent and fairly enforced. Unfortunately, American companies and workers are competing against state-owned and subsidized companies in opaque non-market economies that do not vary production based on market conditions. This allows some foreign companies to produce and export steel well in excess of their own domestic needs and at below fair market value, thus harming American companies and workers and putting critical aspects of our economic and physical security at risk.

In Southern Illinois, U. S. Steel’s Granite City Works facility has been partially idled due in part to unfairly-traded steel imports. Many hundreds of hardworking steel workers remain unemployed. These men and women deserve their government’s support and assistance against such foreign practices.

We believe that any actions must include robust protections to ensure that United States trade remedy laws are fully effective. This includes addressing and closing loopholes other nations have exploited to evade lawful AD/CVD tariffs, such as the transshipment of steel through other nations; that no exceptions be made for specific foreign companies or countries, which enables AD/CVD tariff evasion; and that United States negotiate binding commitments on foreign countries, particularly China, to address the global overcapacity of steel, all of which undermine and threaten our national and economic security.

Once again, thank you for attention to the risks facing our domestic steel industry.

Sincerely,

Mike Bost  
Member of Congress  

Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress  

John Shimkus  
Member of Congress