August 21, 2017

The Honorable Wilbur L. Ross, Jr
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Ross:

I am writing on behalf of our country's steel and aluminum workers. I thank the Department of Commerce for initiating the 232 investigations into the national security impacts of steel and aluminum imports. This is an important first step that should result in ensuring that American jobs will not fall victim to unfair trade practices that imperil our national security.

The need for prompt action is precipitated by the large volumes of excess global steel production and capacity that results primarily from foreign government subsidies and other unfair practices that distort the U.S. market. Steel and aluminum products are essential to our infrastructure and national defense industrial base.

To ensure our steel and aluminum workers are not devastated by the influx of cheap imported metals, these investigations must be promptly finalized and avowed. I urge you in the strongest of terms to immediately make affirmative determinations in these pending investigations.

These sectors have been ravaged by foreign competition. China leads a host of other countries that have flooded our markets resulting in plant shutdowns, lost jobs, and reductions in national production capacity. Until the U.S. curtails the influx of these foreign imports, our national security and the viability of our steel and aluminum producers are at risk.

I implore the Department of Commerce to act immediately to provide broad, deep, and effective action under the Administration’s 232 steel and aluminum investigations. We must protect hard working Americans and ensure that our country always maintains the production capacity necessary to defend itself.

Sincerely,

Congressman Matt Cartwright