August 17, 2017

Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
14010 Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Ross,

I write today to express support for the domestic steel industry in the ongoing Section 232 National Security Investigation of Imports of Steel. I am concerned about the continued negative impact on American firms resulting from the importation of steel, aluminum, and pipular tubing goods from overseas, where pricing can be based on illegal competitive practices. I urge your agency to engage in comprehensive action on this issue, and I ask that you consider the specialized circumstances of the Canadian steel industry as your consider this action.

Our country has a long history of producing steel, aluminum, and pipular tubing goods. The sectors have helped to galvanize our industrial economy and provide vital support to our military. The workers in these industries have a proven track record of productivity and manufacturing high-quality goods. Yet U.S. steel production is not being properly utilized – production is at 74.4% capacity in 2017, lower than the 80% deemed necessary to maintain a stable domestic industry. A similar situation exists for the pipular tubing industry. A prime reason for this underutilization is the illegal dumping of products from overseas. Your agency has the ability to remedy this problem – I urge you to do so.

The unique and close relationship between the United States and Canada in this industry necessitates careful study. As you craft your relief mechanism, I urge you to exclude Canadian companies from any anti-dumping duties. This is because Canadian firms are often interrelated with their American counterparts in the stream of commerce. One example is Welded Tube, a Canadian company with a pipular tubing plant in my district in Western New York. The inability to acknowledge this unique relationship could result in unintended consequences, potentially hurting our domestic industry further.
I support closing the loopholes that allow for illegal dumping by foreign competition. Removing these unfair trade practices will boost American steel, aluminum, and pipeular tubing goods production. As a member of the Ways and Means Committee and the Congressional Steel Caucus, I will continue to work to promote American jobs, reclaim American leadership in manufacturing, support small businesses, and close loopholes in trade laws to ensure that American workers and businesses have a level playing field.

Thank you for time and attention to this matter, I look forward to working together on this issue.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress