

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

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AND POLICY COMMITTEE



HOUSE PERMANENT
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

DC OFFICE
1133 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2665

CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP

TERRI A. SEWELL
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ALABAMA, DISTRICT 7

June 9, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
H-232 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
H-204 U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Chairman
House Ways and Means Committee
1233 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sander Levin
Ranking Member
House Ways and Means Committee
1236 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner, Leader Pelosi, Chairman Ryan and Ranking Member Levin:

I write today to express my serious concern over the enforcement provisions in the current trade legislation and urge that provisions be added to allow American companies to pursue remedies in a more timely and effective manner against bad actors who unfairly dump their products in the U.S. market and manipulate their currency. By strengthening trade remedy and enforcement provisions, we greatly enhance the competitiveness of American industries like steel and allow American steel workers to compete on a level playing field in our global economy.

Steel is an essential component of our national security and domestic manufacturing base, and we must do all that we can to ensure its survival in our global economy. Additionally, the steel industry is a critical source of jobs and economic vitalization in Alabama's 7th Congressional District and supports approximately 63,000 jobs statewide. As the greater steel community continues to face increased competition from foreign steel producers, it is critical that Congress ensures our trade laws are followed and that our international trading partners are held fully accountable for any unfair trade practices. Industry leaders and workers have continuously expressed to me their concern about the major shortcomings of current U.S. trade remedy laws. These laws are the primary means by which the American steel industry can mitigate the harm from unfairly traded foreign imports. However, the reality is that by the time this remedy process is complete, American jobs are already lost, workers have already been displaced and American companies have already lost their market share.

I ask that the House consider trade remedies legislation reflecting the provisions recently adopted by the Senate, which will allow the American steel industry to accomplish the following:

- Strengthen and improve our anti-dumping and countervailing duty laws;

BIRMINGHAM OFFICE
TWO 20TH STREET NORTH
SUITE #1130
BIRMINGHAM, AL 35203
(205) 254-1960

MONTGOMERY OFFICE
101 SOUTH LAWRENCE STREET
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX III
MONTGOMERY, AL 36104
(334) 262-1919

SELMA OFFICE
908 ALABAMA AVENUE
FEDERAL BUILDING, SUITE 112
SELMA, AL 36701
(334) 877-4414

TUSCALOOSA OFFICE
2501 7TH STREET SUITE 300
TUSCALOOSA COUNTY COURTHOUSE ANNEX
TUSCALOOSA, AL 35401
(205) 752-5380

- Establish a means to petition Customs and Border Protection to take action in a timely manner to combat the evasion of anti-dumping and countervailing duty orders;
- Enhance the ability of the Department of Commerce to select appropriate facts when a foreign party fails to cooperate with an unfair trade investigation;
- Clarifies that the International Trade Commission (ITC) should not deny relief merely because the domestic industry is profitable or because its performance has recently improved, and clarify the factors the ITC should consider in making its material injury determination;
- Provide the Department of Commerce with the flexibility to use prices or costs that are not distorted when calculating dumping and clarifies its authority regarding the selection of voluntary respondents.

Any trade package that will be considered **must** include these critically important provisions and address the issue of trade remedies and enforceability. Thank you for your consideration and prompt attention to my request.

Sincerely,



Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress