

Testimony  
Congressman Peter J. Visclosky  
International Trade Commission  
Hearing on Corrosion-Resistant Carbon Steel Flat Products from Germany and Korea  
January 9, 2013

I would like to thank Chairman Williamson and all of the members of the Commission for holding the hearing today on anti-dumping orders on corrosion-resistant steel flat products from Germany and South Korea, and on a countervailing duty order on corrosion-resistant steel flat products from South Korea. As always, I am very thankful for the opportunity to stand before you today and provide testimony on this incredibly important case.

As you are well aware, I testify before you on cases in my capacity as the Vice Chairman of the Congressional Steel Caucus, as the case involves the protection of trade laws that impact the strength and survival of our entire domestic steel industry. I also testify before you in my capacity as the Representative from the First Congressional District of Indiana when the case involves the production of products that are made by steelworkers in Northwest Indiana. Today, I am here in both capacities.

First, as a representative from the Congressional Steel Caucus, I present to you this letter, signed by Chairman of the Congressional Steel Caucus Tim Murphy, myself, and 19 other Members of the Caucus. I ask that you include this letter as part of the official comments for today's hearing.

This letter documents how it is essential that we preserve the current orders in place so that American steelworkers can fairly compete in the world economy. Specifically, the letter explains that in the first three quarters of 2012, imports of corrosion-resistant steel from Germany and South Korea totaled 360,908 net tons, which is 30 percent higher than the same period in 2011. In Europe, German mills face exceedingly weak demand, as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development recently projected that real gross domestic product in the Eurozone will fall by 0.1 percent next year, and in Asia, South Korean mills face ever intense competition from China, whose production of coated sheet steel products rose by almost 53 percent from 2009 to 2011. It is clear that Germany and South Korea face exceedingly weak demand, and the revocation of these orders will lead to a new surge of illegal imports from these countries. This would have disastrous consequences for American steel companies and their workers.

Second, as the Representative from the First Congressional District of Indiana, I want to express the views of my constituents who assemble corrosion-resistant steel flat products in Northwest Indiana. I leave for Northwest Indiana this afternoon, and I will spend the next three days holding Town Forums in various towns and cities throughout the region. I will stress to residents during these Forums that we must fight for every American job and do everything we can to provide certainty to American families in this recovering economy. While that process involves state and local officials, labor groups, private businesses, and non-profit organizations in Northwest Indiana, it also involves you and the work of this Commission. Our economy is just beginning to regain its footing, and we cannot allow a new surge of imports from the revocation of these orders to wipe away the hard-fought progress we have made toward economic security, growth, and job creation.

As always, I thank you for your efforts and for your fair and deliberate consideration of this case, and I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony before you today.