

Testimony
Congressman Peter J. Visclosky
International Trade Commission
Hearing on Certain Oil Country Tubular Goods from
India, Korea, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan,
Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, and Vietnam
July 15, 2014

I would like to thank Chairman Broadbent, Vice Chairman Pinkert, and all of the members of the Commission for the opportunity to present testimony as part of today's critical hearing on oil country tubular goods. I think that there is no higher priority for our domestic steel industry today than the enforcement of our trade laws, so I thank you and your staff for your diligence and commitment to that end.

It does not get more serious for our steel industry than today's case. U.S. Steel has recently closed plants in Pennsylvania and Texas, and steelworker jobs across the country are threatened by the influx of cheap imports. We must take a stand today and tell countries around the world that we do not allow steel to be dumped here.

As you may be aware, this past month, Congressional Steel Caucus Chairman Murphy and I coordinated a letter to the Department of Commerce, and this letter expressed our concerns regarding their preliminary determination specific to Korea. I would point out that 155 Members of Congress, over a third of the House of Representatives, signed this letter. The letter reminded the Department of Commerce that imports of oil country tubular goods have doubled since 2008, and have increased by 61 percent thus far in 2014 compared to the previous year. The letter also noted that 8,000 workers across the country make OCTG products, and that each of these jobs supports seven additional jobs in the supply chain.

The Senate has also been vocal on this issue, with 57 Senators sending a similar letter to the Department of Commerce. Additionally, I have received over 500 e-mails from constituents with the subject line reading "Save Our Steel Jobs." I think that the message is clear from steel companies, steelworkers, and members of the House and Senate: this case is critical to the future of the American steel industry, and we must take action to defend these workers from illegal trade.

During my testimony before you this past May in the case regarding welded stainless pressure pipe from Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam, I noted that I had been vocal before this Commission regarding the same product, and that was during a 2009 case involving China. Unfortunately, the circumstances today are identical. On December 1, 2009, I testified before this Commission regarding anti-dumping and countervailing duty orders on oil country tubular goods from China. I am pleased that we were successful in that case and that it resulted in a significant decrease in Chinese imports. Unfortunately, the countries involved in today's case seized on that opportunity and began dumping their OCTG products in our country. Our trade remedies are effective, but we are creating a dangerous trend where protections against one country are leading to an invitation for other countries to exploit our market. We cannot allow this trend to continue. All countries must know that all illegal trade will result in swift and just enforcement of our trade laws, and we must make that statement in today's case.

This past week, the Department of Commerce ruled in their final determination of this case that there were positive anti-dumping margins for all of the countries involved, including up to 15.75 percent for Korea, 35.86 percent for Turkey, 111.47 percent for Vietnam, and 118.32 percent for Thailand. The Department of Commerce also ruled in their final determination that countervailing duty margins were up to 19.11 percent for India and 15.89 percent for Turkey.

Members of the Commission, I thank you again for the opportunity to be a part of today's hearing. I appreciate your thorough consideration of this case, and urge you to fully enforce our trade laws and issue an affirmative final determination.