

Congressman Tim Murphy, Chairman Congressional Steel Caucus
Statement Before the International Trade Commission
Hearing on Certain Oil Country Tubular Goods from India, Korea, Philippines,
Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, and Vietnam (Nos. 701-TA-499-
500, and 731-TA-1215-1223 Final)

July 15, 2014

As Prepared For Delivery

Madam Chair and Members of the Commission,

I am here today to address an issue of importance to the working men and women of my district. Unfairly-traded imports from India, South Korea, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, and Vietnam have dramatically changed the domestic market for OCTG steel and pose a substantial, severe, and imminent threat to the domestic industry and all domestic steel producers that supply the industry. I am grateful for the opportunity to be before you today on behalf of the people of the Southwestern Pennsylvania and once again stand up for steel.

As you heard from other witnesses this morning, the steel industry is an integral part of the fabric of our economy and it is an essential component to both the history and the future of heavy manufacturing in Southwestern Pennsylvania. As Chairman of the Congressional Steel Caucus, I am committed to these men and women who, over generations, literally built the foundation for our nation to grow, expand, and prosper in the last 150 years. It's a commitment to them that I am honored to fulfill.

In my role as a legislator and Caucus Chairman, I want to see that the trade laws enacted by Congress are respected, and strongly enforced by this body, so our domestic industry is able to compete fairly in an open and transparent global market. The families I represent and their employers aren't asking for special handouts or privileges; they simply want a fair shot to use their work ethic and apply their ingenuity to earn a paycheck or win business in a marketplace where the rules are clear and the laws are enforced. We want open trade with many nations, but when foreign governments cheat, and international and US laws are broken, it is incumbent on the International Trade Commission to act. Otherwise, good-paying American jobs will be lost and our communities will suffer.

The harm inflicted on U. S. workers as a result of unfair trade from the subject countries is not limited to those employed in OCTG mills. Whether it is mining ore in Minnesota or coal in Greene County, Pennsylvania, or producing hot-rolled steel in Granite City to make welded-OCTG, we are nation built on steel.

Last month, I wrote a letter to the Secretary of the Commerce calling for full enforcement of our trade laws in this case. My letter was signed by 155 Republican and Democratic members of the House of Representatives from all across the nation. I'd like to include with my statement a copy of that letter for the hearing record.

These lawmakers have seen the pain felt by their constituents and communities when dumped and subsidized OCTG hit our shores. The major bright spot for domestic steelmakers – shale oil and gas producers – had once again been taken away because of a surge of illegal OCTG. Imports from Korea alone have grown 1,000 percent in the last four years, stripping away all the progress American steel made after the 2010 Chinese OCTG affirmative case. Today, mills in Kentucky are cutting back shifts and hours. Plants have begun to close, including one US Steel facility in McKeesport, Pennsylvania just outside of my congressional district.

The ITC must decide whether material injury has occurred to domestic workers and manufacturers. If these examples of curtailed domestic production for a robust customer segment is not evidence of material injury, I ask, how many more workers must lose their jobs before we turn back the tide on illegally-traded OCTG from these nine countries?

The numbers you've heard today from the plaintiffs in this case represent real jobs and real families—families that have been injured by unfairly-traded steel. The towns in Southwestern Pennsylvania are feeling the pain. So are the constituents of my fellow 155 Steel Caucus colleagues who see it in their districts. American workers involved in all stages of the OCTG production process, from the production of pellets to the production of pipe, have felt injury.

Our economy cannot suffer the damage caused by unfair imports in perpetuity. At stake today is a stable manufacturing base, long-term economic growth, a healthy middle class, and our military and national security.

Our trade laws — laws that I fully support — provide the U.S. OCTG industry with a measure of hope in response to this unfair competition. The domestic industry cannot wait until dumped and subsidized imports have again doubled or tripled; workers and their families cannot wait until domestic capacity is mothballed, or until the steel mills that supply them are shuttered. The record before the Commission establishes that dumped and subsidized imports from the nine subject countries have caused significant harm to the domestic industry and further threaten the industry with even more substantial damage if our laws are not enforced.

I urge you to act to uphold our nation's trade laws — as enacted by Congress. Confirm the Commerce Department's findings in this case of illegal dumping. In doing so, you will provide the nation's steel industry with the opportunity to fairly and effectively compete in the U.S. marketplace. I thank you for your time and consideration of my views.