

APRIL 22, 2014

**Before the International Trade Commission
Washington, D.C.**

**TESTIMONY OF
IHOR BARANETSKYI
EMBASSY OF UKRAINE TO THE UNITED STATES**

Chairman Williamson, Commissioners, and Staff:

Good afternoon. My name is Ihor Baranetskyi. I am Acting Head of the Economic Division at the Embassy of Ukraine to the United States of America. I thank you for this opportunity to speak with you today about this important review of the antidumping duty order on steel wire rod from Ukraine.

Your consideration of the antidumping duty order on wire rod comes at a time of serious political changes in Ukraine. We hope that the Commission's examination of the facts in this proceeding and your final decision will serve to promote further development of trade and fruitful economic relations between the United States and Ukraine.

It has been nearly fifteen years since the original investigation period for this order on wire rod exports from Ukraine. Since that time, Ukraine's economy and its steel industry have changed drastically. Our economy has transitioned from state-ownership to a private market economy. Ukraine has implemented important market reforms, has joined the WTO, and has committed to deepening and enlarging its trade relationships with all countries, including the United States. We have already signed political part of Association Agreement with the EU and plan to sign Deep & Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement with the EU this year as well. It is especially in these difficult political times that Ukraine needs open trade with the United States consistent with the rules agreed upon at the WTO.

As you may know, the European Union has recently responded to the situation in Ukraine by reducing tariffs on nearly all industrial products, and has demonstrated a commitment to helping Ukraine through greater integration of our economies. The United States is likewise an important trading partner for Ukraine. We hope that your consideration of this order on Ukraine wire rod will likewise result in open trade between our countries for these products, consistent with the applicable WTO rules, rather than continuation of an outdated and unnecessary antidumping order. I understand that you will hear detailed testimony today from the Ukrainian producer Yenakiieve Iron and Steel Works about why this order is no longer needed, and I respectfully request that you carefully consider this testimony.

I thank you again for this opportunity to appear before you, and I thank you for your hard work and consideration of these important matters between our two countries.