Testimony of U.S. Representative Rep. Jason Altmire (D-PA-4)
Drill Pipe and Drill Pipe Collars from China Final Injury Hearing
Investigation Nos. 701-TA-474 and 731-TA-1176
U.S. International Trade Commission – 500 E Street, SW
Washington, DC
Wednesday, January 5, 2011 – 9:30AM

Good Morning, Chairman Okun and Members of the Commission. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to testify before the Commission today regarding the imports of drill pipe and drill pipe collars from China.

I am proud to represent the Fourth District of Pennsylvania, just north of Pittsburgh, where steel production has been a pillar of the economy for decades. I would like to begin by thanking the Commission for your past affirmative votes in the OCTG and Seamless Pipe cases against China. Many of my constituents work in the steel industry producing high quality American steel products. The relief provided by the enforcement of our trade laws has been a great economic benefit to the communities I represent, allowing hundreds of workers to be re-hired.

The Koppel Steel Division of TMK IPSCO Tubulars, one of the petitioners today, has two operations in my district. Both of these plants and communities have directly benefited from the recent ITC decisions in the OCTG and Seamless Pipe cases. In Koppel, Pennsylvania, TMK IPSCO has a steel melt shop in which scrap steel is melted, poured and made into billets. The company also has a seamless pipe mill ten miles away in Ambridge, Pennsylvania.

As you will hear today from the Petitioners, TMK IPSCO made substantial investments in their pipe mill in Ambridge so they could produce two additional sizes of unfinished drill pipe. In 2007 and 2008, the company made very significant quantities of this product but since then, business has been taken away by unfairly traded Chinese imports of drill pipe. I know that American workers can produce the highest quality steel in the world, but we need a level playing field in order to continue to be the most competitive.

Thanks in part to recent affirmative decisions by the OCTG and the enforcement of our trade laws, TMK IPSCO has recently opened a new custom threading facility just across the state line from my district in Brookfield, Ohio. One hundred workers, some of whom live in my district, have been hired to produce specialty-threaded OCTG for use in drilling the Marcellus Shale natural gas reserves.

Exploring the Marcellus Shale natural gas reserves offers an opportunity to create a large number of American jobs. I think it is only right that the products used for drilling for our natural resources are of the highest quality, made in America, by American workers. Certainly, the Chinese do not use American-made drilling products when they are drilling for oil and gas in China.

As the 112th Congress begins today, I hope that all of my colleagues – across both sides of the aisle – will focus on policies that will create new jobs in the United States and enhance our nation's manufacturing sector. With our country running an over $25 billion a month trade deficit in goods with China, we have to vigorously enforce our trade laws by saying 'no' to unfairly traded imports from China and 'yes' to American jobs. I will continue to fight to keep jobs in my district now and in the future by helping to ensure that American companies are able to compete fairly in the global economy.

Again, I thank this Commission for your past efforts to enforce the trade laws which have benefited my constituents in Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District. The same Chinese Government subsidies that hurt our OCTG and Seamless Pipe industries have caused the same injury and pose the same threat to the drill pipe industry. I ask that you continue to enforce policies that will allow laid off workers to return to their jobs, and that will allow additional investments in these drill pipe facilities and the subsequent creation of new jobs.

I would urge the Commission to make an affirmative decision, and thank you for the opportunity to testify today.