

*Testimony of U.S. Representative Tim Ryan before the U.S. International Trade Commission
Final Injury Hearing – Certain Steel Wheels from China
Inv. Nos. 701-TA-478 and 731-TA-1182 (Final)
March 8, 2012 – 9:30 a.m.*

Good morning, Chairman Okun, and Members of the Commission. My name is Tim Ryan and I represent the 17th Congressional District of Ohio. It is a pleasure to return to the Commission to appear in support of the steel wheels industry. Akron is the largest city in my Congressional district. As you may know, it was once known as the Rubber Capital of the World and was home to numerous tire and wheel manufacturing plants. Unfortunately, most of those plants have been shut down over the years, to the detriment of our dedicated local workforce.

I am pleased that Hayes Lemmerz, which was recently acquired by major international wheels company Maxion Wheels, is still operating a wheels plant built by Goodyear Tire in 1927. Too often in the United States, the assumed best course of action is closing and dismantling any factory that is old when, in reality, the ideal alternative is to retool and modernize by putting new machinery into old buildings. In fact, that is the very reason these investments are critical to keeping the lifeblood of American manufacturing flowing. It is our duty to provide hardworking Americans the opportunity to maintain their quality of life, to provide for their children and contribute to their communities through payment of taxes as well as in non-monetary ways.

In addition to the three executives from the company, I am particularly pleased that Dave Vorshak, the USW Union Local 2L President, is here today. Dave is emblematic of the people who live in my Congressional district, which continues to be heavily reliant on manufacturing jobs. Dave has a family of four. He has a job that provides good wages, healthcare, and a pension program that can provide for his family later in life. These jobs have been disappearing from my

district for years, not because manufacturers in northeastern Ohio are uncompetitive, but because they cannot compete with the unfairly derived benefits enjoyed by the government of the People's Republic of China. The \$295 billion trade deficit in manufactured goods from China in 2011 is proof of that. The short-sighted decision in the matter of *GPX International Tire Corp. v. United States* underscores the gravity of this issue; we must continue to fight subsidized imports. The ruling threatened to limit the application of U.S. countervailing duty law with respect to merchandise exported from nonmarket economies like China. I am hopeful that, sooner than later, we will take significant, lasting action against Chinese subsidies and currency manipulation, to be felt in palpable ways by hardworking Americans.

It is heartening to know that Maxion executives have pledged that, with relief, they will make further investments in the Akron facility. This is important for the entire community and beyond. I am confident that, with relief, additional hiring in this facility—and the subsequent expansion of U.S. production—can replace the unfairly traded imports from China. As a Member of Congress, I can tell you that the hardworking people of my district are suffering due to the fact that trade with China is grossly unfair. You have found in favor of trade fairness to U.S. workers in the past. I respectfully ask that you rule similarly today.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you.