

Testimony
Congressman Peter J. Visclosky
International Trade Commission
Hearing on Cold-Rolled Steel Products from Brazil, China, India,
Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Russia, and the United Kingdom
May 24, 2016

I would like to thank Chairman Broadbent, Vice Chairman Pinkert, all of the members of the Commission, and the dedicated staff, for all your work to protect American steel companies and steelworkers from the dangerous trading practices of foreign competitors.

I also would like to thank you for your efforts to utilize the new trade enforcement tools established under P.L. 114-27, the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015, which Congress approved and President Obama signed into law last year. I believe that this law received bipartisan support and prioritization from Congressional leadership because of our understanding of the severity of the import crisis currently facing American manufacturers and the American steel industry.

One of the primary priorities of the Congressional Steel Caucus today and in the coming months will be to ensure that these new provisions and all of our trade law statutes are enforced to their fullest extent. This is exhibited by the 80 Members of Congress who signed a Congressional Steel Caucus letter drafted by myself and Chairman Tim Murphy. This letter addressed to each of you highlights that in 2015, foreign steel imports took a record 29 percent share of the domestic steel market, American steel mills shipped 12 percent fewer tons of steel than in 2014, and over 13,500 employees were laid off. This is unacceptable. The letter notes that U.S. trade enforcement laws provide the means by which the American steel industry can mitigate the harm inflicted by illegally traded foreign imports, and that in order for the industry and its workers to obtain full and effective relief, the ITC must aggressively enforce the law.

On behalf of Chairman Murphy and all of the Steel Caucus signatories, I present this letter to you today during the consideration of the case involving cold-rolled steel products, but I would stress that the importance of your work extends to all of the cases involving the steel industry that are currently under investigation. By our count, today's case is one of but eight critical investigations involving steel products, and this does not include U.S. Steel's Section 337 investigation.

As you move forward in your investigation of this case involving cold-rolled steel and the other steel cases, I and all of the persistent and diligent steelworkers and their families, in Northwest Indiana and across our country, will carefully be watching your actions to enforce our trade laws and stop the surge of steel imports.

I thank you for the opportunity to testify and again appreciate your thorough investigation of the facts of this case.