

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

October 13, 2016

The Honorable Irving A. Williamson
Chairman
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 East Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20436

Dear Chairman Williamson:

We write to express our strong support for the domestic steel industry in the case involving circular welded carbon-quality steel pipe (CWP) from Oman, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, and Vietnam.

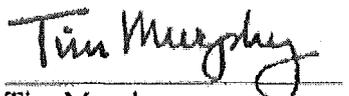
As Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Congressional Steel Caucus, we are acutely aware of the real-world impacts of illegal imports on American steelworkers and steel producers. Steel communities across our country are experiencing the devastating impacts of illegal imports. Mills are idling and closing. Hard working steelworkers are being laid off. American steel producers and workers just want to compete on a level playing field, and we owe them the opportunity to do so.

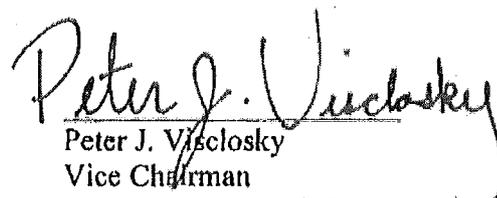
The International Trade Commission's (ITC) preliminary report on this case highlights just how detrimental illegal imports of CWP are to the domestic steel industry. Nine producers included in the ITC's U.S. producer questionnaire reported changes in their operations since 2012. Three reported shutdowns. In 2015, one of the largest producers of CWP, Allied Tube and Conduit Corporation, exited the market. This cost 317 good paying jobs. While this alone is concerning, it is important to note that illegal imports of CWP not only affect companies that produce steel pipe products, but also companies that produce flat rolled steel that is used to make CWP. In order to prevent future closures and job losses, we must ensure that we fully enforce our trade laws.

The Congressional Steel Caucus has worked diligently in the 114th Congress to see that the ITC, the Department of Commerce, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection have a wide variety of tools available to more accurately and efficiently assess allegations of illegal trade. We appreciate that the Commission has been receptive to these efforts, particularly by quickly adopting the new definition of "material injury" established in P.L. 114-27, the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015, and we appreciate your continued use of these new tools in today's and in future trade cases.

Thank you for your thorough examination of the facts in this case. We urge you to recognize the material injury that CWP imports have caused to the domestic steel pipe and tube industry and to hold the countries involved accountable for their illegal actions.

Sincerely,


Tim Murphy
Chairman
Congressional Steel Caucus


Peter J. Visclosky
Vice Chairman
Congressional Steel Caucus