

**U.S. International Trade Commission**  
**Cast Iron Soil Pipe From the People's Republic of China**

**Testimony of the Honorable Ted Budd**  
**U.S. Representative, North Carolina 13<sup>th</sup> District**  
**Tuesday, February 12, 2019**

Good morning Chairman Johanson and members of the Commission. It is a pleasure to appear before the Commission today to provide testimony on this important matter. This is my first appearance before the Commission and I wanted to thank you for the work you do on behalf of impacted parties who seek relief from unfair trade practices.

My district is home to a variety of manufacturers including furniture and textiles and a diverse agriculture sector. People who live in my district also commute to areas outside of the district for jobs located in Mecklenburg County. And one of the region's largest employers is Charlotte Pipe and Foundry of Charlotte, NC. During my time in Congress I have had the opportunity to work with company representatives on a number of issues of importance to the industry and their employees and learned about the challenges they face as a result of trade distorting practices.

This morning I appear to express my support for Charlotte and the U.S. Cast Iron Soil Pipe industry in this investigation. I understand that the Commission will hear from industry leaders today about the impact that unfairly traded imports of Cast Iron Soil Pipe from China have had on the industry. In fact, I also learned that today there are only three remaining foundries in the nation making this highly valued product.

Charlotte Pipe plays an important role in our state and regional economy. As the nation's largest manufacturer of cast iron and plastic drain waste and vent pipe and fittings the company brings over a century of service and excellence to its customers who use these pipe products in conjunction with cast iron soil pipe fittings in the sanitary and storm drain, waste and vent piping of buildings. In addition, the company has continued to make sizeable investments in its facilities and relies on the trade laws to ensure that they can compete here and abroad.

As I have learned, imports increased by over 15 percent over from 2015-2017 as a result of increased imports of this product. These low-priced imports undercut the domestic industry; if they continue, it will create an even more unfavorable business climate for the industry.

Our country is now experiencing record economic growth and it is important that our manufacturers including those in the cast iron soil pipe industry be provided with the tools and relief necessary to compete. I know how important Charlotte Pipe is to our state and I also know that we want them to not only remain in business, but prosper and grow to employ future generations.

I thank you for the opportunity to appear today and ask that the Commission give full and fair consideration to this investigation.