

Testimony of Mayor Jay Williams, City of Youngstown, Ohio
U.S. International Trade Commission Final Injury Hearing on Oil Country
Tubular Goods (OCTG) from China

December 1, 2009 – 9:30am

Good morning Chairman Aranoff and members of the Commission. I am Jay Williams, Mayor of Youngstown, Ohio. I have served as the mayor since 2005. There is nothing more important for my city today than this hearing and the outcome of the antidumping and countervailing duty cases against imports of OCTG from China.

Our population in Youngstown has declined by more than half over the last fifty years. All of the sprawling steel mills that were once Youngstown Sheet and Tube have been shuttered. What was once the Youngstown plant of LTV Tubular was shuttered by Maverick Tube after they purchased the assets out of bankruptcy in 2003. The largest private employer that our city has and a prominent corporate citizen is V&M Star. Their main product is OCTG. They are making steel in Youngstown which is made into OCTG. Our city's unemployment rate is 14%. Our underemployment rate is much higher. There are no better jobs for manufacturing workers in Youngstown, Ohio than the jobs at V&M Star. In addition to their direct employment, the company creates thousands of additional indirect jobs, including work in the distribution, service and transportation industries in our community.

Simple common sense tells you that no company in their right mind would make an investment in existing or new facilities in the United States if they knew that they had to compete with mills in China that are either government owned, government financed or government subsidized. China has targeted the steel industry, and in particular the OCTG industry. Our OCTG consumption in the United States is many times the size of OCTG consumption in China, but China has actively developed this industry so they may export to the United States, steal our jobs, and endanger our communities. Every Mayor in the United States wants the factories in our cities to remain open and wants new investment in new facilities to supply U.S. consumption. Manufacturing has a long and proud history in the Mahoning Valley and our citizens stand ready to compete to keep these jobs in our community.

I ask you, indeed I even implore you, to please give the city of Youngstown and other cities a chance. I think we are on our way to rebuilding our city and such a revitalization program will only be possible with continued manufacturing employment and a strong industrial base. Thank you for the opportunity to appear today.