

Testimony  
Congressman Peter J. Visclosky  
International Trade Commission  
Hearing on Welded Stainless Steel Pressure Pipe from  
Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam  
May 22, 2014

I would like to thank Chairman Williamson, members of the Commission, and all of the staff, for your work to enforce our trade laws, and for the service that you provide to American workers and the American steel industry. I also thank you for the opportunity to testify as part of today's hearing regarding anti-dumping duties on welded stainless pressure pipe from Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

While the steel producers involved in this case are not directly located in the First Congressional District of Indiana, as the Vice Chairman of the Congressional Steel Caucus, I would like to convey to you my concerns regarding the current circumstances of steelworkers and steel producers from throughout the country. This past March, Chairman Murphy and I held a Steel Caucus hearing on the state of the steel industry. During this hearing, we heard testimony from representatives of steel companies and from the United Steelworkers. Eight different witnesses provided testimony at the hearing, and the consistent theme of the testimonies was that our country is currently a dumping ground for cheap steel from foreign countries. They all also stressed that we must take action now to protect American jobs and ensure the survival of the American steel industry.

One of the individuals to provide testimony was United Steelworkers President Leo Gerard, and he reminded us of the actions that we took around the year 2000. At that time, we worked to pass legislation to establish the steel import notification and monitoring program, and we worked to secure relief for American steelworkers through a Section 201 Safeguard investigation. President Gerard reminded us that as we were working to curb these actions in 2000, foreign competitors continued to target American jobs and flood our market with illegal steel. He said that bold and decisive action is needed again today, and I agree with him.

President Gerard's testimony also reminded me of the action that we in this room have taken before on welded stainless pressure pipe. In 2009, Mr. Murphy and I submitted written testimony on a case involving anti-dumping duties on pressure pipe from China. The ITC and the Department of Commerce ultimately found that the U.S. industry was materially injured or threatened with material injury by illegal subsidies from China. The words of Mr. Gerard ring true in this instance as well, in that as we took action then to stop China, the countries of Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam saw their opportunity to target American jobs and dump their steel products in our country.

On December 13, 2013, the Department of Commerce ruled in their preliminary determination of this case that the margins for the anti-dumping duties range in Malaysia from 22.7 percent to 167.11 percent, in Thailand from 7.16 percent to 10.92 percent, and in Vietnam from 17.72 percent to 53.91 percent. These numbers should compel us to take action in this case and send the message to Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam, and all the other steel producing countries of the world, that America will not tolerate one ton of illegal steel.

Members of the Commission, American steel jobs are under attack from foreign competitors, and not just from illegal subsidies and dumping activities. This past week you may have seen the headlines indicating that the Chinese military was hacking into the computers of steel company employees and members of the United Steelworkers. I know that the response to that type of action is not under your jurisdiction, but I am deeply alarmed by these allegations. Foreign competitors are stopping at nothing to steal our information, flood our markets, and take our jobs. We have a duty to protect American workers, and this case before today is an essential component of that protection.

For these reasons, I respectfully request an affirmative final vote after your thorough consideration of this case. I again thank you for your diligent and thoughtful work, and I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony today.