

Roy F. Martin, Jr.

United States International Trade Commission

Silicomanganese from India, Kazakhstan, and Venezuela,
Inv. Nos. 731-TA-929-931 (Second Review)

Testimony of Roy F. Martin, Jr.
Vice President, USW Local 5171

Good morning. My name is Roy Martin, Vice President of Local 5171 of the United Steelworkers union at the silicomanganese plant owned and operated by Felman Production in Letart, West Virginia. I began working for Felman as a machinist shortly after the plant was purchased in 2006 out of bankruptcy. I am currently a millwright and have been in that position since 2009. I am here today to represent my Union members, my employer, my community and my State.

When I appeared before you last year, our workforce felt fairly optimistic about the future. We were operating at high capacity, and the company was investing in the plant to improve its operations in terms of production, quality, safety, and efficiency. Between the time that the plant opened in 2006 and last summer, our workforce grew from 60 to more than 250 workers, 211 of whom were USW members at the time. In January of this year, Felman and the United Steelworkers, on behalf of its members at Local 5171, negotiated a 42-month contract.

Unfortunately, we are now facing significant challenges in a difficult market. In May 2013, Felman shut off our #5 furnace and laid off 38 union

members and several salaried employees. On June 30, 2013, Felman shut off our other two furnaces. We are struggling every day to survive the low cost of sales and our orders have been cut in half. We had lay-offs and cost reduction throughout the plant in May, but I am told by Felman that the company still can't achieve a profit in the manufacturing of silicomanganese with the current metal market.

It's my understanding that some parties in these reviews have speculated that Felman is not really interested in being a domestic producer of silicomanganese. Let me make clear that this is not the case. The company continues to make significant investments. Speaking as the vice president of USW Local 5171, there is no question in my mind that management is firmly committed to restarting production once market conditions improve. I see that commitment every day in the work that is being done to have the furnaces ready to re-start. But that won't happen, it can't happen, if the orders are revoked and our market is flooded with dumped imports.

That's why I come to you today, to express how your decision on the continuation of the anti-dumping duty orders could and will determine the future at Felman. If Felman has to cease production and shut down permanently because the anti-dumping duty orders are lifted, it will have a devastating impact on our

Union members, our community, and our State. The message I bring to you from our union members is simply this: please don't let that happen.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.