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Chairman, Congressional Steel Caucus
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American-made steel is roaring back to life and it's Western Pennsylvania's natural gas fueling the resurgence.

As we will hear today from our guests, shale gas production is spurring massive domestic expansion in steel. Abundant gas supplies are lowering energy costs for factories, and leading to increased demand for drill pipe, casing steel, and pipelines. Demand for tubular goods has risen so sharply that US Steel has moved back into McKeesport.

Mills are running at 78% of capacity – levels unseen since late 2008. In 2011, more than 13,000 new workers found jobs with steel. And to support this growth, energy and construction companies are buying and installing new equipment, rebuilding roads, and laying down 1.1 million tons of steel pipeline each year.

The American steel industry is standing at the forefront of innovation and productivity.

And yet, the future of steel jobs in the USA are at risk.

Costly and unworkable new EPA regulations will mean less coal-fired power, potential blackouts, and higher electric rates for mini-mills and melt operations. No less than ten federal agencies are looking to burden shale gas development with new regulatory barriers that will reduce production, increase costs, and lead to fewer jobs.

The Steel Caucus has done everything it can to punish foreign governments that knowingly break the law and subsidize steel exporters as part of an intentional effort to weaken and destroy our industrial base.

Last month the Caucus threw its weight behind an effort to hold China accountable when Beijing gives direct subsidies to exporters. As many of you are aware, H.R. 4105 reversed the *GPX* ruling and allows steelmakers to continue to compete in a free and fair market. I'm pleased it was signed into law, but we've still got a lot of work to do.

For instance, our Caucus is making progress on pushing the Administration to revisit the Russian suspension agreement so cheap Russian steel cannot flood the market at prices lower than the costs of production. We are also committed to forcing the Pentagon to follow the law and use steel armor plate in tanks and planes that is made and melted in America.

Next month, the Caucus will be back at the International Trade Commission where we've recorded several major successes in recent years to stop a flood of cheap and inferior oil country tubular goods and cut-to-length carbon steel plate from India, Korea, and other

foreign nations. This time, we'll be at the ITC pressing the commissioners to stop Vietnam from dumping inferior pipe on our shores.

And finally, we continue our work on ensuring currency can be exchanged freely and the markets are not persistently manipulated by central governments. I've co-authored the Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act, which has 230 bipartisan cosponsors. My bill, which overwhelmingly passed the House in 2010, holds China accountable for manipulating its currency in order to give exporters an instant 25-40 percent price advantage.

Our Caucus will build on the successes I've briefly mentioned, and we'll continue to our work on ensuring American steel remains strong and vibrant for decades to come in Western Pennsylvania.