Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 11, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Congressional Steel Caucus, we respectfully request a meeting with you to discuss the dire import crisis facing the American steel industry.

The domestic steel industry is the cornerstone of the United States' economy and national security, supporting more than one million direct and indirect U.S. jobs. Despite the steel industry's significance to our nation's economy, the unprecedented surge in illegally-traded imports has jeopardized the industry and caused numerous mills across the country to close their doors, resulting in the layoffs of more than 13,000 employees this past year. America boasts the most talented workforce in the world, but we cannot compete with countries that purposely evade our trade laws and manipulate their currencies.

Over the past year, the Congressional Steel Caucus successfully fought for the inclusion of several pro-steel provisions in historic trade enforcement legislation such as the Trade Preferences Extension Act (P.L.114-27) and the Trade Facilitation & Trade Enforcement Act (P.L. 114-125) that Congress approved and you signed into law. Our efforts mark the first time in over 20 years that Congress has made such dramatic and necessary improvements to our nation's trade remedy laws in order to protect American steelworkers and the industry from the onslaught of illegally dumped foreign products.

In addition to improving our trade remedy laws, the Steel Caucus recently sent letters to the Department of Commerce (Commerce), the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), and the Honorable David O'Sullivan, Ambassador of the European Union to the United States of America, urging the rejection of China's bid to be redesignated as having market economy status in the World Trade Organization (WTO). China's government-owned and government-supported steel companies subsidize their low-quality steel products to the threshold where American producers can no longer compete on a fair playing field. Recognition of China as a market economy by the WTO would be devastating to the American steel market and its supply chain costing an upwards of 600,000 additional job losses and sending catastrophic shockwaves across the entire United States economy.

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

As such, we wish to discuss with you the importance of maintaining China's non-market economy status as well as your Administration's plans to aggressively enforce our nation's trade laws. Congress has provided Commerce, the International Trade Commission, the USTR, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection with the tools necessary to combat foreign competitors' illegal trade practices and hold them accountable. It is imperative that your Administration works closely with Congress to ensure that the interpretation and enforcement of our trade laws are carried out to the fullest extent to ensure American steel producers receive swift trade relief before they are pushed to the brink of bankruptcy.

Thank you for your consideration, and we look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Tim Murphy
Chairman
Congressional Steel Caucus

Peter J. Visclosky
Vice-Chairman
Congressional Steel Caucus