

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 1, 2014

The Honorable Penny Pritzker
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Pritzker,

We write to express our serious concerns regarding countervailing duty and antidumping investigations that the U.S. Department of Commerce is conducting regarding imports of reinforcing bar (rebar) from Turkey and Mexico. These trade cases are critical to the economic vitality of the U.S. rebar industry and its workers.

As members who represent steel and rebar manufacturers, we are deeply troubled by the impacts of unfairly-traded imports on the industry and communities across the country. U.S. rebar producers employ over 30,000 workers and have production facilities in nearly all 50 states. With 6 million tons of domestic production, rebar is critically important for a healthy and viable industry. Our manufacturers and their workers have the right to expect that our trade laws will be strictly enforced to the letter of the law.

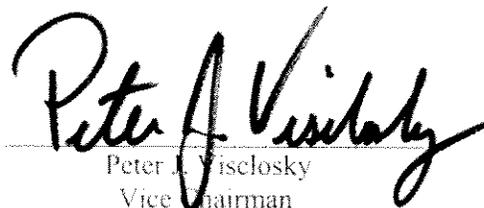
We understand that the Department of Commerce recently found that the Government of Turkey bestows energy subsidies on the Turkish rebar industry, but that they are *de minimis* in value. Considering the significance of energy to the steelmaking process, this finding is surprising. Import volumes from Turkey and Mexico nearly doubled from 2011 to 2013, and imports from Turkey surged dramatically this year. Surging imports have deprived the industry and American workers with the benefits of a recovering economy. Further, the bipartisan International Trade Commission recently found that Mexican and Turkish producers are underselling U.S. producers in nearly every case, resulting in substantial lost sales and depressed prices.

In these uncertain economic times it is even more important that relief is provided to an industry and workforce that have been injured by unfair trade practices. U.S. rebar manufacturers have fought long and hard to compete on a level playing field. We feel strongly that these cases should be adjudicated based on their merits.

We have strong trade laws on the books and rely on you to strictly enforce them to the letter of the law.

Sincerely,


Tim Murphy
Chairman
Congressional Steel Caucus


Peter J. Visclosky
Vice Chairman
Congressional Steel Caucus

Tom Gaffi

Alan Amundson

Pave Locksack

Betty Miller

Bill Johnson

Paul Sts

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Robert Litterer

Tom Rice

Gregg Harper

John C. ...

Tom Cotton

Dan Ruffini

Richard Hudson

Paul A. Gosar

Randy K. Weber

Mr. ...

Jenni Swell

Mr. Brooks