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TIM RYAN
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
13TH DISTRICT, OHIO

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
DEFENSE SUBCOMMITTEE
TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING, AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

October 5, 2015

The Honorable Meredith Broadbent
Chairman
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20436

Re: Certain Welded Line Pipe from Korea and Turkey
Investigation Nos. 701-TA-524-525 and 731-TA-1260-1261 (Final)

Dear Chairman Broadbent,

I write with regard to the ongoing antidumping (AD) and countervailing duty (CVD) investigations on imports of Certain Welded Line Pipe from Korea and Turkey. I am unable to appear at the final injury hearing on October 6, 2015 and ask that this letter be entered into the hearing record.

Last year I wrote to the Commission in support of this investigation as you prepared for the preliminary conference. At that time I expressed my views about the important role that the steel and steel pipe industry plays in our nation's economy. The petitioners in this investigation represent the majority of domestic steel pipe manufacturers in this country and include two of my constituents in the district, Energex and TMK IPSCO.

Over the past few years, Ohio has become one of the top steel producing states, but this position will be threatened if we continue to allow foreign countries to create an unfair playing field. My state needs these secure, well-paying jobs to help revive our community and region.

Earlier this year the Commerce Department issued affirmative preliminary AD and CVD decisions and I understand that final margins will be announced on October 6, 2015. The outcome of this investigation will determine what the future will hold for the domestic steel line pipe industry. A negative ruling can lead to bankruptcies, plant closures, and the loss of thousands of jobs.

Unfortunately since the time of filing these cases the industry has been forced to make difficult decisions and the surge in imports from Korea and Turkey have continued. This has resulted in a record number of plant idling, layoffs, furloughs and closures in the industry. You will hear from the domestic industry leaders about how severe this import crisis has been on the industry and its workers and why it is important that they receive relief from these unfair trade practices.

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This steel pipe product is a critical component to our nation's energy infrastructure and companies in Ohio and across the country are prepared to serve this sector of the economy. However, as I know too well, year after year these companies are fighting off the imports that carve away at the backbone of this country's manufacturing sector. Frankly, these practices have to stop and the only solution is to ensure that the trade laws provide the results needed to ensure that domestic line pipe producers can compete in the global arena.

Our country's economy has been strengthened by the contributions made by American manufacturers and workers. This is true in my state of Ohio, where multiple generations of steelworkers have worked to be part of the American dream. In fact, I have met many of these workers and their families over the years and I know how much they rely on the ability to be part of an industry where everyone plays by the rules. These workers are the fabric of this nation's highly skilled and committed workforce that make products that are vital to this nation's economic growth. This is true for the line pipe industry and its workers that serve the energy sector.

Ohio has some of the most talented and highly productive workers in the world, and all they have ever asked for is a level-playing field. Your decision can take us one step closer to making that happen. I ask that you continue to support American workers and do everything in your power to find that these imports undermine and threaten the best interests of U.S. industries. I do hope that the Commission will take action to ensure that the line pipe industry and its workers receive the relief necessary to compete now and into the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my comments in support of relief for the industry and its workers.

Sincerely,

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress