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

March 22, 2018

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH SUBCOMMITTEE
RANKING MEMBER
DEFENSE SUBCOMMITTEE
MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS,
AND RELATED AGENCIES SUBCOMMITTEE

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I write today in strong support of the American steel and aluminum industries, and I welcome your announcement of tariffs under Section 232 National Security Investigation of Imports of Steel and Aluminum. Many of the hardworking men and women I represent in Ohio's 13th Congressional District have been negatively impacted by unfair trade practices. The illegal dumping of foreign steel and aluminum into American markets has hurt the economy of my state and deserves action that will level the playing field.

I was pleased to see your Administration give this issue the attention it deserves, as well as the announcement to impose a 10 percent tariff on aluminum imports, a 25 percent tariff on steel, and to exempt Canada. However, I was disappointed that exemptions for European countries were not included. Implemented in a practical and measured approach, these tariffs will help protect our steel and aluminum industries from further decline. But without these additional exemptions for our important allies, our steel industry will experience chaos and job loss.

There is no doubt that China, Russia, and other countries have oversaturated the global market, intentionally undermining our national manufacturing industry and defense industrial base. These tariffs brought against the worst actors will have a profound strengthening effect on America's steel and aluminum industries, put people back to work, rebuild America's infrastructure, and ensure a strong national security apparatus.

Without exempting countries and allies – like European nations -- that are dedicated to the same labor and environmental standards as the United States, the implementation has the potential to do significant damage to the economy. These tariffs will only succeed and provide stability to the market if the trading partners that work with the United States are exempted. An unnecessary trade war that damages our relationships with our global trading partners will not create a stronger manufacturing base, but chaos in the industry.

I know firsthand what happens when a local plant is forced to close and workers lose a reliable source of income. It has a deep ripple effect that impacts every member of the community. I urge your Administration to implement these tariffs in a measured manner, and properly exempt European countries that adhere to the highest labor and environmental standards.

I appreciate your attention to this critical issue, and I look forward to continuing to work with you to protect steelworkers and the aluminum industry in Ohio and across the country.

Sincerely,

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

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