



Building and Construction Trades Council

Affiliated with BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION TRADES DEPARTMENT, AFL-CIO



May 12, 2016

The Honorable Michael Froman
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Froman,

We offer our full support of the Section 337 complaint filed by U. S. Steel Corporation against the illegal unfair methods of competition and unfair acts in the importation and sale of steel products in the United States.

The allegations against these respondents are disturbing: Illegal conspiracy to fix prices and control output and export volumes; the theft of trade secrets by industrial espionage; and the circumvention of hard won duties ordered by the ITC and Department of Commerce by false labeling and transshipment.

We strongly urge this Administration to ensure that U. S. Steel Corporation is permitted to present its case, advance its theories and evidence, and probe the activities of the respondents. The good men and women of the American steel industry deserve this opportunity to examine respondents under penalty of perjury and compel relevant documents. Moreover, the American people deserve to witness our adjudicatory process at its best in this bold, legal action.

This U. S. Steel 337 investigation must go forward.

The impact of Chinese steel produced with these unfair methods of competition and other illegal practices has a profoundly negative impact on our national economic health and our nation's national security interests.

While we commend you and the Administration for your steadfast efforts to address the global overcapacity of steel and the myriad trade issues affecting the American manufacturing industry, the U. S. Steel Section 337 complaint is a private right of action and warrants full consideration and a robust investigation.

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Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you as this 337 action moves forward and to prevent unfairly-traded steel imports from further harming American jobs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry Melander". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Harry Melander
Minnesota State Building and Construction Trades Council
President

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