



STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office of Governor Mark Dayton

116 Veterans Service Building ♦ 20 West 12th Street ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

May 11, 2016

The Honorable Michael Froman
United States Trade Representative
600 17th Street Northwest
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Froman:

For more than a century, Minnesota's Iron Range has produced a majority of the iron ore mined in the United States. From supplying our troops to building 21st century skyscrapers, our mining industry has played a key role in both defending and building our nation.

Iron mining continues to be a vital economic sector in Minnesota, with nine mining companies employing thousands of workers in good-paying jobs. Unfortunately, this entire region has been devastated by the global steel market downturn over the course of the last year. Since early 2015, nearly 2,000 Minnesota workers in the mining sector have experienced layoffs. Thousands more have been laid off by downstream vendors and suppliers associated with the industry. These unprecedented job losses have left many Minnesota families unable to pay their bills or put food on the table.

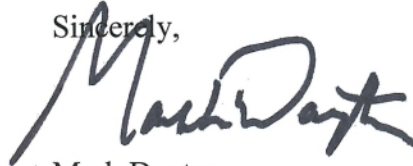
While Minnesota has provided extended state Unemployment Insurance benefits for these workers and has aggressively taken advantage of federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) resources, these programs are not a real solution to the long-term problem: illegal foreign steel dumping. That is why I am writing to express my full support for U.S. Steel's recent complaint against the largest Chinese steel producers and their distributors for illegal conspiracy to fix prices, theft of trade secrets, and circumvention of trade duties by false labeling.

I urge the U.S. International Trade Commission to investigate U.S. Steel's allegations to the fullest extent allowed by federal law and international treaty obligations. Thousands of Minnesotans are currently living without any certainty about when or whether their jobs will come back as a result of illegal foreign steel dumping. The International Trade Commission has the power to answer those questions while providing much-needed relief to an important American industry.

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On behalf of the many Minnesotans impacted by illegal foreign steel dumping,
thank you for your concern and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Dayton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "M".

Mark Dayton
Governor

cc: The Honorable Penny Pritzker, Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce
Mr. Mario Longhi, President & CEO, United States Steel Corporation