

## Tom Hackbarth

State Representative

District 31B

Anoka County



# Minnesota House of Representatives

COMMITTEES:  
CHAIR, MINING AND OUTDOOR RECREATION POLICY  
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES POLICY AND  
FINANCE TAXES  
WAYS AND  
MEANS

May 13, 2016

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

Dear Ambassador Froman,

I am proud to serve as Chair of the Mining and Outdoor Recreation Committee of the Minnesota House of Representatives. In my position I have had the opportunity to become familiar with our taconite industry and its importance to our entire State. I am writing to offer my 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.

I 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 Minnesota taconite industry and the rest 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 I 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.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Hackbarth".

Tom Hackbarth  
State Representative  
District 31B

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