



American Iron and Steel Institute



Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute



Specialty Steel Industry of North America



May 21, 2018

Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Nita M. Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Lowey:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we urge the adoption of the Aderholt-Visclosky Buy America amendment to the FY19 Interior Appropriations bill currently before the House Appropriations Committee. The bipartisan amendment removes language in the underlying bill that would permit our taxpayer-funded water infrastructure to be constructed with foreign-melted iron and steel.

Under current law, water infrastructure projects funded with U.S. tax dollars through the EPA-administered CWSRF, DWSRF, and WIFIA programs are required to use American-made iron and steel. Following Congress' desire for these investments to promote capital investment and jobs here in America, the EPA administers the law to require that "all manufacturing processes" take place domestically. This ensures that every critical stage of the steelmaking process occurs in the United States and, as a result, enables the benefits of the procurement preference to be felt throughout the supply chain, including by domestic suppliers of critical raw materials. This "melted and poured" standard has been successfully applied since 1983 for highway, transit, water, and other federal assistance infrastructure projects.

Unfortunately, the underlying bill includes new language that would permit steel that is initially manufactured (melted and poured) abroad and then rolled and/or finished in the United States to be used in taxpayer-funded infrastructure projects. Even worse, the bill would permit end-use products to be assembled in the United States using components made entirely of foreign iron and steel. Without the Aderholt-Visclosky amendment, the underlying bill would bypass tens of thousands of American workers in the iron ore mines of Minnesota, Michigan and Alabama, the coal mines of Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Wyoming and West Virginia, and steel mills from coast to coast. Each direct steel job supports seven others throughout our economy.

The Aderholt-Visclosky amendment mirrors the Buy America provision enacted in 2014 that permanently codified the Buy America preference for the CWSRF and WIFIA programs. The amendment simply seeks to retain a consistent “American Iron and Steel” procurement preference for the DWSRF, as has been included in the FY 2018, FY 2017, FY 2016, FY 2015 and FY 2014 appropriations to the EPA. Last year, an identical amendment offered by Congressmen Aderholt and Visclosky to the FY18 spending bill was adopted by the full Appropriations Committee by voice vote.

We urge your support for the Aderholt-Visclosky amendment. Buy America is and should continue to be a preference for steel that is produced at every stage of the manufacturing process in the United States – not a preference for foreign-produced steel that is further rolled and/or finished here. This distinction has enormous implications for capital investment and jobs in the U.S. manufacturing sector.

Sincerely,

Alliance for American Manufacturing (AAM)
American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)
American Foundry Society (AFS)
American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI)
American Line Pipe Producers Association (ALPPA)
Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute (CRSI)
Iron Ore Alliance (IOA)
Municipal Castings Association (MCA)
Pennsylvania Steel Alliance (PSA)
Specialty Steel Industry of North America (SSINA)
Steel Manufacturers Association (SMA)
Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO (TTD)
United Steelworkers (USW)

cc: Members of the House Committee on Appropriations