

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 30, 2016

The Honorable Irving A. Williamson  
Chairman  
United States International Trade Commission  
500 E Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20436

Re: Inv. No. 701-TA-560-561 and 731-TA-1317-1328

Dear Chairman Williamson:

We write to express our concern about unfairly dumped and subsidized carbon and alloy steel cut-to-length plate imports that are harming U.S. producers. As you conduct investigations into the impact of these imports on American manufacturers, we urge you to fully implement the Leveling the Playing Field Act (Title V of P.L. 114-27) and consider a comprehensive list of factors in the Commission's injury determinations.

Imports of steel plate have skyrocketed in recent years. Between 2013 and 2015, they surged by 100 percent. In 2015 alone, the domestic industry estimates that 1.2 million tons of unfairly traded imports, worth \$850 million, entered the U.S. market. These imports have taken their toll, and U.S. producers were forced to file antidumping and countervailing duty cases in April of this year.

As of last year, U.S. producers were utilizing only 66 percent of their capacity, with U.S. plate production falling by nearly 20 percent in 2015. U.S. plate producers' sales dropped by more than one million tons. At the same time, the U.S. plate industry's operating income fell by over 90 percent. As a result, more than 200 workers were laid off in 2015. Even where workers have been able to keep their jobs, hourly wages have been reduced significantly.

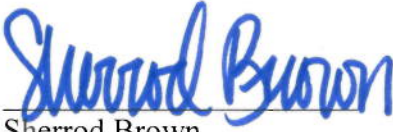
The Leveling the Playing Field Act expanded the factors to be considered by the Commission in an injury evaluation to ensure that our trade remedy laws provide relief for U.S. industries that have been harmed by unfairly traded imports. Specifically, Section 503 of the law includes among the factors the ITC must consider, any declines in output, sales, profits, and utilization of capacity. We urge you to incorporate analysis of these factors into your evaluation and to ensure your determination reflects the injury incurred by domestic steel plate producers.

We appreciate the Commission's role in ensuring that U.S. producers of hot-rolled, cold-rolled, and corrosion-resistant steel obtained the relief they needed from dumped and

subsidized imports. We ask you to ensure that the same relief is extended to U.S. steel plate manufacturers.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



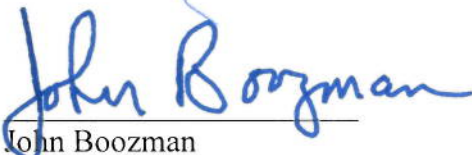
Joe Donnelly  
United States Senator



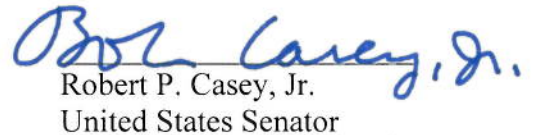
Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senator



Al Franken  
United States Senator



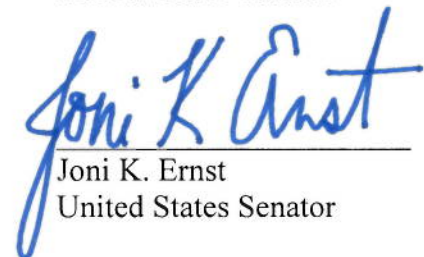
John Boozman  
United States Senator



Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator



Thom Tillis  
United States Senator



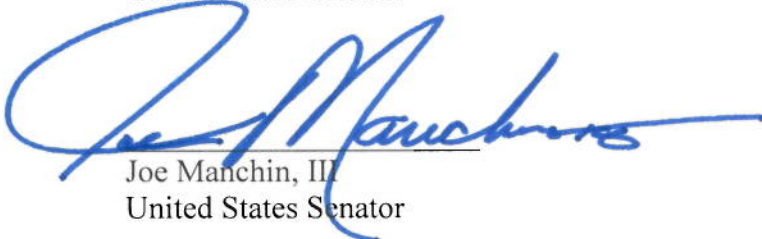
Joni K. Ernst  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



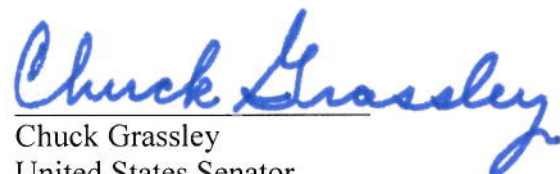
Richard C. Shelby  
United States Senator



Joe Manchin, III  
United States Senator



Lindsey O. Graham  
United States Senator



Chuck Grassley  
United States Senator