



June 21, 2017

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Finance  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden,

On behalf of the American Institute for International Steel (AIIS), which represents hundreds of thousands of men and women working in all elements of the American steel supply chain, including 18 major port authorities, I am writing to seek your help in opposing any new restrictions on steel imports under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962.

New section 232-based trade restrictions will complicate and likely damage our foreign, trade, and international commercial relations, creating unnecessary tensions with our allies.

They will most likely result in damaging retaliation, targeting our high-value exports.

They will increase manufacturing costs, driving up consumer prices for many Americans.

They will put many thousands of jobs at risk, particularly in our ports. The thousands of men and women who work on our docks will feel the pain first, and likely the hardest, when imports are restricted, and they will feel it again when other countries retaliate against our exports.

Applying new steel trade restrictions on national security grounds would invite other countries with politically sensitive products to do the same by invoking the legal protection of the WTO Agreement's GATT Article XXI, which contains broad-based, security-related exceptions to otherwise applicable WTO obligations. One Article XXI-based claim that a country's domestic product or products are exempt from that country's trade obligations on national security grounds would encourage many other such claims, putting the entire rules-based international trading system at risk.

Finally, the truncated time period employed for this investigation is far less than the maximum 270-day investigation period provided by Congress. It is highly unlikely that the extremely complicated diplomatic, trade, defense, and foreign policy dimensions of this issue have been given due consideration.

We very much appreciate your attention to our concerns.

With best regards,

Richard Chriss  
President