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UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ROSA L. DeLAURO
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CO-CHAIR, DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND
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FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION,
AND RELATED AGENCIES

September 8, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

During your campaign, you promised to fight for working people by holding our trading partners accountable for defying the rules. Accordingly, I write to urge your Administration take immediate action under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act to remedy distortions in the steel market created by illegally subsidized foreign steel imports that put America's productive capacity and national security at risk.

When you announced in April of this year that the Administration was initiating a National Security Investigation of Imports of Steel under Section 232, I looked forward to enforcement actions to hold our trading partners accountable for excess steel dumping into American markets. Five months later, we are still awaiting action. Imports of dumped steel have surged since the investigation was announced and our steelworkers and domestic industry need immediate redress.

Global excess steel capacity has surged to the highest levels in two years, causing imports to dominate nearly 30% of the domestic market. Ongoing inaction threatens our national security infrastructure and undermines readiness. U.S. defense and critical infrastructure supply chains cannot be over-reliant upon subsidized foreign steel imports. As highlighted by Brigadier General John Adams, Ret., an expert in defense market analysis, "imports of cheap and subsidized steel from our strategic competitors put our national security at risk by eroding the U.S. steel industry's position as a fundamental building block of our national security infrastructure."

America's steelworkers and productive capacity cannot wait. We have tried weak trade enforcement before, and the results have been disastrous. Simply talking about global overcapacity at the G-20 and Organization for Economic Coordination and Development (OECD) has not successfully deterred our trading partners from subverting U.S. trade laws, and steel mills have continued to shutter in the interim.

For these reasons, I strongly encourage your administration to take immediate and decisive action to stop the illegal trading practices that undermine domestic steel capacity, damage the incomes of working people, and undercut critical human capital in the steel industry. I further urge your administration to develop a comprehensive remedy that accounts for the entirety of our domestic steel industry and its intricate integration into U.S. national security infrastructure.

Sincerely,



Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Wilbur Ross, Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce