

**Testimony of U.S. Representative Pete Aguilar, California - 31st District
Before the U.S. International Trade Commission
Final Hearing on Heavy Walled Rectangular Welded Carbon Steel Pipes and Tubes From
Korea, Mexico and Turkey
Inv. No 701-TA-539 and 731-TA-1280-1282 (Final)**

July 14, 2016

Chairman Williamson and members of the Commission, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to highlight concerns shared by residents in my community of San Bernardino County, California about the consequences of dumped and subsidized imports of structural tubing products from Korea, Mexico and Turkey.

Today I join California producers and petitioners in this investigation, including Searing Industries, a steel tube manufacturer headquartered in Rancho Cucamonga in my district, and Hannibal Industries, Maruichi American Corporation, and Vest, Inc. in nearby Los Angeles County.

Searing Industries is a family-owned U.S. steel tube manufacturer that has served the growing needs of customers on the West Coast since the 1950s and today the company employs over 200 people.

My community is deeply troubled about the impact that these persistent and injurious unfair trade practices have had on the steel tube industry and the overall domestic steel sector. The producers that will appear before you today represent an industry that is innovative, efficient and integral to the local economy through the high wage jobs they provide to their employees, their families and to our communities.

As I understand, the Department of Commerce announced its preliminary antidumping (AD) determinations on imports from Korea, Turkey and Mexico on February 23, 2016. I also learned that the Department issued its preliminary countervailing duty (CVD) determinations on imports from Turkey on December 21, 2015. I understand that the Department is expected to announce their final determinations in this investigation this week.

These unfair practices only contribute to the precipitous decline of American manufacturing in general and steel tube and steel production in particular. This is why I believe that trade must be conducted fairly and that the trade laws should provide relief to producers injured by these trade distorting practices. When trade remedies are put into place the affected industry and its employees are provided with an ability to recover and

compete – and after all that is what we strive for – an open and level playing field in which to compete.

I am particularly proud of the contributions made by the steel tube industry in my district and in the state. I also recognize how vital it is for our country to have a strong and robust domestic steel sector. We rely on these products for an array of commercial uses, but we also rely on this industry and its products for our national security. Our domestic manufactures produce the best quality steel products in the world, but when other countries play by a different set of rules; our producers aren't given a fair shot to provide their quality products to American consumers. That is simply unacceptable.

Chairman Williamson, I believe in free trade in a global economy. But American manufacturers can't be forced to compete on a playing field that's tilted in favor of foreign competitors.

I believe an affirmative decision from the Commission in this case will protect our steel tube producers from further unfair trade practices and give American businesses like Searing Industries and others in the steel tube community a fair shot to serve American consumers on a level playing field and continue to provide good wage jobs to current and future generations.

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to appear today.