

**Statement by Representative James E. Clyburn**  
**U.S. International Trade Commission**  
**Hearing on Cold-Rolled Steel Products from Brazil, China, India,**  
**Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Russia, and the United Kingdom**  
**Inv. No. 701-TA-540-544 and 731-TA-1283-1287, 1289-1290**  
**May 24, 2016**

Chairman Broadbent and members of the Commission, thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate today. I'm Jim Clyburn, and I proudly represent the Sixth Congressional District of South Carolina and serve as Assistant Democratic Leader in the United States House of Representatives. The Sixth District includes all or parts of fifteen counties in the central and south eastern part of the state, with Columbia and Charleston constituting its largest cities.

I understand three Commissioners and a dozen or so staff members had the opportunity to visit the Nucor Steel Berkeley facility recently. I hope you enjoyed your visit and got a chance to taste our famous Low Country cuisine and our equally-famous Southern hospitality.

I also hope you took some time to interact with some of the hardworking people who make the Berkeley facility run. I know that many of them told you how important Berkeley is to the local economy. It's an economy that has made significant strides since the steel industry arrived.

I've spent a lot of time recently reflecting on the presidency of Lyndon Johnson. During 2015 we celebrated quite a few fiftieth anniversaries of landmark laws; laws that made education more attainable, health care more affordable, voting more accessible, housing more available, immigration more equitable and the environment cleaner. When LBJ conceived of the War on Poverty, he could have had my district in mind. Parts of South Carolina's Sixth District have been locked beneath the poverty level for multiple generations.

I believe government can and must play a role in fighting poverty, and by far the most potent weapon in the war on poverty is a good-paying job that allows individuals to buy a home, educate their children, and live out their golden years in dignity.

These are exactly the kind of jobs the Nucor plant in Berkeley provides.

The 940 Nucor jobs alone would make a big contribution to our local economy, but a plant like Berkeley creates a ripple effect throughout the region, supporting hundreds of local businesses, as well as our schools and municipalities. For an area like eastern South Carolina,

strong manufacturing jobs are the difference between poverty and prosperity. The impact of a mill like Berkeley goes far beyond its gates. This plant is a major part of our local community.

It's involved in all sorts of ways, from providing laptops to local schools to partnering in anti-poverty programs like the East Cooper Community Outreach. Perhaps most importantly, the success of a facility like Berkeley provides visible proof to our children and grandchildren that hard work pays off - that having a job means more than just a paycheck, it's a source of dignity, pride in oneself and one's community, and a belief that the American dream is still achievable.

Nucor's decision to build a mill in Berkeley County made a whole lot of sense to me. There are great transportation links, easy access to raw materials and most importantly, a dedicated, conscientious workforce - everything a steel mill needs to be globally competitive. Working together, the company and the community have created a mill that can out-compete any steel producer in the world - if there is a level playing field.

Unfortunately, the playing field has been anything but level. The Commerce Department has found that steel producers from the countries you are investigating are dumping their cold-rolled steel in the United States.

Many of those producers have also received subsidies from their government. They have taken sales away from our domestic industry, not by being more competitive, but by breaking international rules. I - and the people of Berkeley, SC - have seen the impact of this first hand.

*Everyone* at Nucor is paid on the basis of performance, the more steel they make - the more money they earn. When unfairly traded imports take sales away from the U.S. steel industry, they literally take money out of the pockets of our workers.

What is true of Berkeley is true of many steel communities across the U.S. These steel mills are an important pillar - sometimes the *only* pillar - of local economies across the country. When the mill is running, the community is prosperous. And if it closes, we know exactly what will happen.

This industry has seen it. In just the past year, major mills in Alabama, Illinois, and Kentucky have all been forced to stop production because of the surge of dumped and subsidized imports.

When a mill in Granite City, Illinois, suspended operations last year, 2,000 steel workers lost their jobs. Multiply that by seven, and you start to sense the impact that the closure has had

on that community. I don't want to see that happen in Berkeley or in any more steel communities in the U.S.

I have no doubt that dumped and subsidized imports from the countries you're investigating have injured the domestic cold-rolled steel industry.

This injury isn't theoretical. In this case and in its two companion cases, you have the opportunity to stop this injury and demonstrate to the people of South Carolina and the rest of the country that America still rewards hard work.

Chairman Broadbent, Commissioners Pinkert, Williamson, Johanson, Kieff and Schmidlein, thank you for your time and your consideration.