

Congressman Richard Hudson

Good morning Chairman Johanson and members of the Commission. I am happy to be here today to offer my testimony for Charlotte Pipe and Foundry of Charlotte, North Carolina.

The unfair trade practices our American companies face today is daunting and I am thankful for this opportunity to express my concerns before this body. In addition, I appreciate the hard work of the Commission in both providing relief and helping our American industries compete.

I have the privilege of representing the 8th District of North Carolina which includes part of the Charlotte metropolitan area and is home to many of my constituents who travel outside of the district to jobs in neighboring counties.

One of my biggest priorities is job creation. North Carolina has been blessed to have Charlotte Pipe and Foundry which has been a significant contributor to the North Carolina economy.

With over a century of manufacturing in the United States, Charlotte Pipe is committed to bettering the communities they operate in. Not only are they one of the largest employers in the state with close to 1,500 employees, but are the nation's largest producer of cast iron soil products.

Today I am here to express my support for Charlotte Pipe, the U.S. Cast Iron Soil Pipe industry, its workers, and my constituents in this investigation. This investigation has shown that cast iron soil pipe imports increased by 15.7 percent during 2015-2017. Having gained a better understanding of the impacts unfairly traded imports of cast iron soil pipe have had on the industry, it is apparent to me China has disregarded global trade rules and the American cast iron soil pipe industry has felt the pain.

Charlotte Pipe, like many others in the domestic industry, believe they can compete with anyone in the world as long as fair market conditions exist. Currently, there are only three foundries left in the United States that make these specific products. I find it alarming that without relief, the future of this industry could be in jeopardy.

It is my understanding that Charlotte Pipe is exploring the possibility of expanding and building a new foundry in North Carolina. This is great news for North Carolina, my constituents and our communities, however, North Carolina may not see this job growth if China's unfair trade practices continue.

I know the outcome of this investigation will play a crucial role in Charlotte Pipes plans to expand in North Carolina. I believe that as our state and country moves forward that it is essential that domestic manufacturers, like Charlotte Pipe, be given every opportunity to compete. I support the use of trade tools that will end trade distorting practices and recognize that with fair trade everybody wins.

I thank the commission for allowing me to be here today and ask there be fair consideration of this investigation.