

Testimony
Congressman Peter J. Visclosky
International Trade Commission
Hearing on Cut-to-Length Carbon Steel Plate
from China, Russia, and Ukraine
September 29, 2015

I would like to thank Chairman Broadbent, Vice Chairman Pinkert, all of the members of the Commission, and your staff, for your hard work to ensure that American workers, particularly those in the domestic steel industry, are protected from injury because of violations of international trade standards. I deeply appreciate this opportunity to testify as part of today's hearing regarding cut-to-length carbon steel plate from China, Russia, and Ukraine.

As a representative and resident of Northwest Indiana, one of our nation's foremost steel-producing regions, I am acutely aware of the challenges facing the American steel industry due to the onslaught of illegal foreign imports. ArcelorMittal makes cut-to-length carbon steel plate at its Burns Harbor facility in my district, and employs hundreds of dedicated United Steelworkers at that plant. Both are impacted by this case, and both are under daily attack from illegal imports. Since 2010, ArcelorMittal has invested \$1.5 billion in its U.S. operations. However, during the same time period, the company experienced a domestic profit loss equal to that amount. We cannot continue to allow our domestic producers to flounder while foreign competitors gain a greater foothold in our market by violating U.S. trade laws.

I have fought for steel my entire career, including during the second review of this case. On September 9, 2009, I stood here before the Commission and spoke about how critical it was to maintain penalties for countries that violate our trade laws. I spoke about how American steel companies and steelworkers make the best steel on the planet, and I stated that if they are competing on a level playing field, they would win every time. The remarks then still stand true today. I am very concerned that if given the opportunity, China, Russia, and Ukraine will not hesitate to resume their illegal dumping practices in our country.

This past March, I co-chaired the Congressional Steel Caucus's annual "State of the Steel Industry" hearing, where industry and union leaders shared prevalent concerns regarding illegal steel imports. The message of each witness at the hearing was clear: foreign producers continue to violate our laws, and if we do not act urgently to hold them accountable for their actions the domestic industry will continue to suffer. Mario Longhi, President and CEO of the United States Steel Corporation, specifically spoke about how appalling it is that the process for determining material injury takes so long, and that by the time relief reaches domestic steel companies, irreparable damage is already done. Congress and the Administration recognized the severity of this problem and this past June approved P.L. 114-27, the Trade Preferences Extension Act of 2015, which updated the definition of injury to make it more suitable for the year 2015. I was proud to support this legislation, as it ensures that injury cannot be denied simply because an industry is profitable or because its performance has recently improved. It also requires that real-world factors such as the actual and potential decline in output and the utilization of capacity be used to determine injury. I appreciate that the Commission has adopted this new definition for the review of this case.

Our domestic steel manufacturers and steelworkers need the ITC to take action. I urge you to maintain the existing anti-dumping orders on cut-to-length steel plate from China, and the suspension agreements from Russia and Ukraine. Cut-to-length carbon steel plate is an essential component of American infrastructure, and it is used to build bridges, railway equipment, and structures throughout the nation. We have a responsibility to ensure that American infrastructure and our national defense infrastructure is built by American steel. We have a responsibility to ensure that the American steel industry is not eviscerated by illegally traded imports. We have a responsibility to send a clear message to our global trading partners, our domestic manufacturers, our steelworkers, and our nation, that our government enforces our trading laws.

I again thank you for your serious and thorough consideration of this case, and I again deeply appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony today.