

United States Senator Richard Blumenthal
State of Connecticut
Before the United States International Trade Commission
Hearing on Fabricated Structural Steel from Canada, China, and Mexico
January 28, 2020

Good morning Mr. Chairman and Commissioners.

I strongly urge you to grant domestic fabricators relief against unfairly traded fabricated structural steel imports from Canada, China, and Mexico. Many small and mid-sized businesses and their hardworking skilled employees in Connecticut and across the country are depending on the ITC's swift, fair action to correct these practices before more jobs are lost and businesses close.

Connecticut businesses have the resources and skilled workers, in a fair fight they succeed. But currently, they are in an unfair fight. The cases before you are critical to ensuring that companies – and workers – in Connecticut and across the country are given a level playing field to succeed.

There are eight dedicated steel fabricators in Connecticut that are certified by the American Institute of Steel Construction. One of the largest of these quality fabricators is United Steel. Founded in 1974, United Steel supplies fabricated structural steel for projects like the new Sandy Hook Elementary School and the University of Connecticut Innovation Building. By providing world class products

at competitive prices, the company has grown over the years to become a significant employer in East Hartford and the Greater Hartford region.

United Steel, and other structural steel companies, must be allowed to continue to thrive. However, dumped and subsidized fabricated structural steel imports from Canada, China, and Mexico are making that increasingly difficult and in increasing numbers of cases - impossible.

In fact, I was troubled to learn that, just two weeks ago, United Steel was forced to lay off 26 workers in one day. The company told my staff that these layoffs are directly attributable to dumped and subsidized fabricated steel from the countries under investigation and are the subject of this hearing.

Let me repeat that – 26 workers were laid off in one day due to unfairly traded imports. Layoffs like these not only devastate the workers but also their families and communities. These are good-paying manufacturing jobs with competitive benefits that support and provide dignity to thousands of middle class Americans.

United Steel is not alone. As the evidence demonstrates, a number of domestic fabricators are losing projects, revenue, and workers to imports from each of the three countries under investigation, despite having the capacity and willingness to supply projects throughout the United States.

These losses will surely continue without ITC relief. All three countries under investigation are heavily export-oriented, shipping historically large volumes of fabricated structural steel to the U.S. market over the last several years. Our market is open and attractively priced, providing Canadian, Chinese, and Mexican fabricators with every incentive to ship greater volumes of dumped and subsidized fabricated steel to the U.S. market.

Without ITC action, there will be continued losses with its negative impact on the overall economy and the weakening of our American manufacturing infrastructure base – which is critical to our national security. We all want America's infrastructure to be built by American workers using American steel but the American workers and businesses need our help. We must ensure that no more American jobs or workers are lost to unfairly traded fabricated structural steel from Canada, China, or Mexico.

I strongly and strenuously urge corrective action by the ITC. Thank you for your time and attention to this critical issue.