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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
September 21, 2004

COMMITTEES:  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
HEALTH

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AND THE INTERNET

SCIENCE  
RANKING MEMBER

The Honorable James Jochum  
Assistant Secretary for Import Administration  
Herbert C. Hoover Building  
1401 Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20230-0001

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I am writing you concerning two programs of great importance to the American wire and wire products industry - the OECD steel subsidy negotiations and the Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis (SIMA) System.

Wire and wire products are an important component of the steel industry. I ask that you include the following products in the scope of OECD negotiations: Carbon, stainless and other alloy steel wire (HTS 7217, 7223 and 7229) and wire products - including wire strand and rope (HTS 7312), barbed wire (HTS 7313), and wire cloth, grill, netting and fencing (HTS 7314), and wire nails and staples (HTS 7317). All of the items listed above also should be added to the scope of the SIMA system including carbon wire rod (HTS 7213, 7214, 7215) stainless wire rod (HTS 7221, 7222), alloy wire rod (HTS 7227, 7228) and garment hangers (HTS 7326.20.0020).

I am very pleased to learn that the United States has been the leader in pressing for the inclusion of wire and wire products in the steel subsidy negotiations. This is an important endeavor for the domestic wire industry, which employs approximately 21,000 workers in more than 156 plants in 33 states, and has combined annual sales in excess of \$9.76 billion. I urge you to continue to press our trading partners to resume negotiations for a steel subsidies agreement so that it is completed as soon as possible.

Thank you for your assistance in ensuring that this vital part of the American steel industry is included in these important programs. If you have any questions please feel free to contact David Plunkett on my staff.

Sincerely,

BART GORDON  
Member of Congress

BJG/dp