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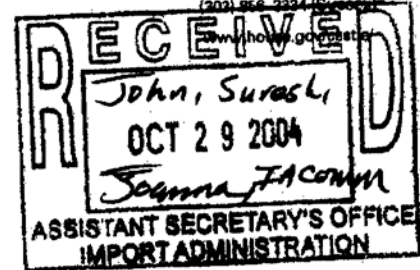
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**Congress of the United States**  
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October 15, 2004

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



Dear Mr. Jochum:


On behalf of several interested constituents, I am contacting you to express my support for the inclusion of American wire and wire products industry in the Organization of Economic and Cooperative Development (OECD) steel subsidy negotiations and the Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis (SIMA) System. In addition, I urge you to continue to press our trading partners to resume these negotiations for a steel subsidies agreement. These issues are very important for the US steel industry, and it needs to be completed as soon as possible.

Wire and wire products are an important component of the steel industry. The domestic wire industry employs approximately 21,000 workers in more than 156 plants in 33 states, and American manufacturers of the steel wire industry have combined annual sales in excess of \$9.76 billion. For this reason, I request that you include these products in the scope of both of these programs. That is, 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), wire cloth, grill, netting and fencing (HTS 7314), and wire nails and staples (HTS 7317) -- must be covered by any final steel subsidies agreement.

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 that the United States has been the leader in pressing for the inclusion of wire and wire products in the steel subsidy negotiations, and I congratulate you and your staff for this achievement. Thank you for your assistance in insuring that this vital part of the American steel industry is included in these important programs.

Sincerely,

  
Michael N. Castle  
Member of Congress