

September 21, 2004

Kelly Parkhill
Director for Industry Support and Analysis
Import Administration
Department of Commerce
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

cc: The Honorable Donald L. Evans
Secretary of Commerce

This letter is to express our organizations strong support for expeditious action to fulfill the Administrations commitment to expand and extend the existing Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis System. The system provides the protection the steel industry needs to preserve its function in the United States and to be profitable and prevent major job loss. We also fully support the efforts of Secretary Evans and back his plans to expand the program to other steel products for expanded protection in an already volatile industry.

Monitoring imports is the administrations way to control and safeguard the domestic steel industry and that is exactly what needs to continue. The steel crisis left many without jobs and loss of their retirements and benefits due to plant shutdown or downsizing. It is extremely personal and disturbing in those cases, for example, situations where the head of households are now out of work and unable to provide for their families. On the flip side, the industry is adjusting to change and recovering from a crisis that has damaged it. I admire the efforts of the industry to get back on their feet again. The import monitoring system is critical for positive improvement and growth of the domestic steel industry.

Crown Training and Development, Inc. is an Industrial Training Company located in Merrillville, IN. As a small business, with 10 employees, our continued success relies greatly on the steel industries stability. Crown Training and Development provides training to steel employees, with expert instructors to give them the knowledge they need to operate at the highest level of ability. The steel industry is where our instructors have the expertise and approximately 90% of our training is customized for them. Crown Training and Development was impacted by the steel import crisis and had to adjust in many ways as a result. In some cases, training was stopped due to limited funding. We lost business and business contacts. We to, as a company, are recovering.

I trust that my comments will have an impact on getting the system reenacted before its expiration. We strongly urge the administration to extend it indefinitely, because it is vital to the domestic steel industry itself, and to the businesses that depend on the steel industry to thrive.

Sincerely,

Dave Maksimovich
General Manager
Crown Training and Development