

## STATE OF INDIANA

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September 23, 2004

Mr. Kelly Parkhill
Director for Industry Support an Analysis
Import Administration, Room 3713
Department of Commerce
14<sup>th</sup> Street and Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Parkhill:

The Indiana Steel Advisory Commission as a whole is supportive of the Administration's commitment to extend and expand the existing Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis System. We believe that the extension of this program will allow Indiana's steel producers to maintain a competitive foothold in the global market place.

The current import-monitoring program was established as part of the steel safeguard relief implemented by President Bush. Unfortunately, the program will expire in March of 2005 and unless swift action is taken, the current program could very well expire before the new one is up and running. If that happens, the collection of information will be disrupted forcing government and industry officials to make decisions without accurate data.

Extending and enhancing the program is critical for the future strength of Indiana steel industry. Over the next decade steel industry officials will depend on the program to help set rational expectations for industry growth. In the long run this will lead to better planning and could protect existing jobs during periods of low demand. It is vital that the steel industry has this tool for continued success.

The steel industry is just beginning to recover from the steel crisis. As you are well aware both industry and labor had to make many sacrifices to get the industry to where it is today. Keeping the administration's commitment to expand and enhance the program will show thousands of working men and women that government does care about the future of their livelihood. As President Bush said, "to keep the positive momentum going we will continue our steel import licensing and monitoring program so that my Administration can quickly respond to future import surges that could unfairly damage the industry" (December 4, 2003).

Thank you for your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of additional assistance to you.

Respectfully,

Kuline X. Danie

Katherine L. Davis Lieutenant Governor

cc: The Honorable Donald L. Evans, U.S. Secretary of Commerce