



OHIO STEEL INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL / OHIO DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT  
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September 21, 2004

The Honorable Donald L. Evans  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

**Re: Proposed Rulemaking regarding Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis System**

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the Ohio Steel Council,\* a quasi-public/private organization in Ohio, we write to you to encourage extension of and improvements to the Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis System ("SIMA"). Since its inception SIMA has been valuable to the Ohio steel industry and its thousands of steelworkers who labor in the mills. But the program needs to become permanent and expanded to include other products.

Ohio's steel industry and associated manufacturers have been particularly hard hit since 1998 by foreign subsidies and dumping. A number of companies in the Council suffered bankruptcy and literally thousands of steelworkers have been thrown out of work. The SIMA approach has allowed domestic steel producers to analyze time-sensitive and critical information and respond to future import surges and unfair trading practices. (The repeal of steel tariffs in 2003 and impact of foreign competition were highlighted in the Council's 2003 annual report, attached).

We remind you that President Bush publicly pledged to make permanent this review process on numerous occasions. What better way than to now support legislation that has been introduced in the Congress and preserve the initial goals of the Administration? You can help provide for a vibrant steel industry, both in Ohio and across the country, by formalizing SIMA.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on these proposed rules.

Sincerely,

Charles Hesse  
For the Ohio Steel Council:

\* AK Steel Corporation  
International Steel Group  
PRO-TEC Coating Company  
Republic Engineered Products, Inc.  
The Timken Company

USS Lorain Pipe Mills  
V&M Star  
WCI Steel  
Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Corp.  
United Steelworkers of America

Enclosure: Ohio Steel Council 2003 Annual Report