

THOMAS R. CARPER
DELAWARE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0803

May 10, 2005

Joseph Spetrini
Acting Assistant Secretary for Import Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
Room 3099B
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Spetrini:

I am contacting you regarding the Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis (SIMA) System, which is a program of great importance to the wire and wire products industry in Delaware and across the country. This industry produces over \$9 billion in annual sales and employs over 21,000 workers in 156 plants in 33 states, including Delaware. In fact, the Insteel Industries plant in Wilmington, Delaware, employs 68 people and produces approximately 60,000 tons of welded wire fabric per year.

While I am pleased with the Department's decision to include carbon, stainless and other alloy steel wire in the revised SIMA system, I also urge the Department to extend coverage of its import monitoring program to include other downstream wire and wire products, such as steel wire strand and rope, and cable (HTS 7312); barbed wire (HTS 7313); steel wire cloth, grill, netting and fencing (HTS 7314); steel wire nails and staples (HTS 7317); Steel springs (HTS 7320); and steel wire garment hangers (HTS 7326.20.0020).

Wire and wire products are an important component of the steel industry, and therefore coverage of these products is essential to the effectiveness and integrity of the SIMA system.

Thank you for your assistance in insuring that this vital part of the American steel industry is included in this important program. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Beth Osborne in my office at (202) 224-3022.

Sincerely,



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator

cc: Mr. Kelly Parkhill, Director of Industry Support and Analysis