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**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515**

September 21, 2004

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

Dear Assistant Secretary Jochum:

I am writing in regards to two programs of great importance to the American wire and wire products industry: (1) the OECD steel subsidy negotiations, and (2) the Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis System (SIMA). I represent the Fifth District of South Carolina which has three wire manufacturing plants.

Wire and wire products are an important component of the steel industry. I am asking 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.

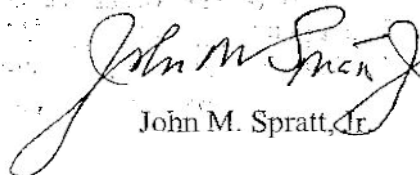
All of these items listed above also should be added to the scope of the SIMA system including carbon wire rod (HTS 7213, 7214, 7215), stainless wire rod (HTS 7221, 7222), alloy wire rod (HTS 7227, 7228), and garment hangers (HTS 7326.20.0020).

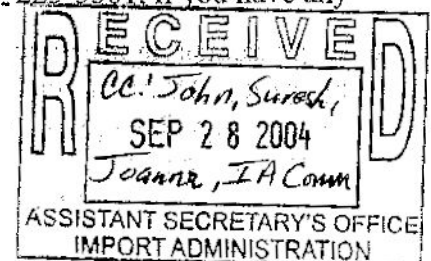
I am very pleased to learn that the United States has been the leader in pressing for the inclusion of wire and wire products in the steel subsidy negotiations. I urge you to continue to press our trading partners to resume these negotiations for a steel subsidies agreement.

The domestic wire industry employs approximately 21,000 workers in more than 156 plants in 33 states. American manufacturers of steel wire have combined annual sales of \$9.76 billion. This is an important industry to South Carolina, and the nation as a whole. I strongly urge you to take action on their behalf.

Thank you for considering this request. I can be reached at 202-225-5501, if you have any questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,


John M. Spratt, Jr.



JMSj:dcm

cc's Spetrini
Lorentzen
Sivana
Sivana
May
Lesley
Katja