



Congress of the United States
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September 30, 2004

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

Dear Mr. Jochum:

I have been asked by some of my constituents to contact you concerning two programs of great importance to the American wire and wire products industry- the OECD steel subsidy negotiations and the Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis (SIMA) System.

Wire and wire products are important components 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).

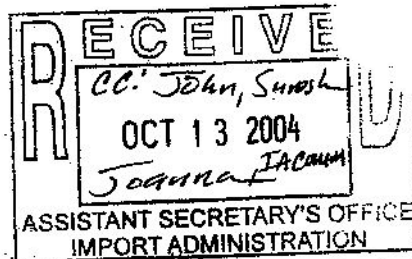
I am very pleased to learn that the United States has been the leader in pressing for the inclusion of wire and wire products in the steel subsidy negotiations, and I congratulate you and your staff for this achievement. I also urge you to continue to press our trading partners to resume these negotiations for a steel subsidies agreement. This is an important endeavor for all of the US steel industry, and it needs to be completed as soon as possible.

The domestic wire industry employs approximately 21,000 workers in more than 156 plants in 33 states, and American manufacturers of steel wire industry have combined annual sales in excess of \$9.76 billion.

Thank you for your assistance in ensuring that this vital part of the American steel industry is included in these important programs. If you have any questions, please contact my staff.

Sincerely,


F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.
Member of Congress



Joe, Lorentzen, Sarah