

JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSION



LARRY P. LANGFORD

PRESIDENT
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MR. KELLY PARKHILL, DIRECTOR
INDUSTRY SUPPORT AND ANALYSIS
IMPORT ADMINISTRATION, ROOM 3713
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
14TH STREET AND CONSTITUTION AVE., NW
WASHINGTON, DC 20230

DEAR MR. PARKHILL:

I AM WRITING, ON BEHALF OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSION, IN STRONG SUPPORT OF THE EXTENSION AND EXPANSION OF THE IMPORT MONITORING SYSTEM FOR STEEL THAT WAS FIRST INITIATED BY THE PRESIDENT TWO YEARS AGO. IT WAS PART OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S SAFEGUARD PROGRAM FOR THE BELEAGUERED AMERICAN STEEL INDUSTRY BEING DEVASTATED BY A MASSIVE SURGE OF DUMPED AND SUBSIDIZED FOREIGN STEEL IMPORTS. LAST YEAR, I HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF TESTIFYING IN SUPPORT OF THE 201 STEEL TARIFFS AT THE MID-TERM HEARING OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION. WHEN THE PRESIDENT SUSPENDED THE TARIFFS, SHORT OF THE THREE-YEARS ORIGINALLY INTENDED, HE PLEDGED TO RETAIN THE STEEL IMPORT MONITORING SYSTEM.

EXTENDING AND ENHANCING THE SYSTEM, WHICH IS WTO COMPLIANT, IS FUNDAMENTAL TO ENSURING THAT GOVERNMENT POLICY MAKERS HAVE ACCESS TO THE MOST ACCURATE AND TIMELY DATA POSSIBLE. IT ALSO WOULD PROVIDE AMERICA'S STEELMAKERS AND THEIR CUSTOMERS WITH THIS VITAL DATA TO ENSURE THAT RATIONAL EXPECTATIONS CAN BE FORMED, AND THAT MARKETS FUNCTION EFFICIENTLY, IN A TIME OF GREAT VOLATILITY IN THE INDUSTRY. CANADIAN GOVERNMENT POLICY MAKERS AND INDUSTRY PARTICIPANTS ARE BENEFITING FROM A STEEL MONITORING SYSTEM WHICH WAS IMPLEMENTED YEARS AGO. BETTER INFORMATION IS BENEFICIAL TO CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS OF STEEL PRODUCTS.

MOREOVER, EXTENDING AND EXPANDING THE CURRENT PROGRAM IS NO HINDRANCE TO TRADE, AND PROVIDES NEEDED INFORMATION ON THE STATE OF STEEL IMPORTS. ALABAMA IS A LEADING STEEL PRODUCING LOCATION WITH MAJOR PLANTS LOCATED HERE IN JEFFERSON COUNTY. THE STATE'S STEEL INDUSTRY UNDERWRITES HUNDREDS OF GOOD PAYING JOBS DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY THROUGH THEIR MANY SUPPLIER COMPANIES IN OUR COUNTY. THE EXTENSION AND EXPANSION OF THE IMPORT MONITORING SYSTEM IS ENORMOUSLY IMPORTANT TO ALABAMA'S STEELMAKERS, THEIR EMPLOYEES, SUPPLIERS, CUSTOMERS AND THE COMMUNITIES WHICH BENEFIT FROM THEIR OPERATION.

PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT ME IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS. I APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE THIS WRITTEN TESTIMONY.

SINCERELY,

LARRY P. LANGFORD, PRESIDENT
JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSION