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September 23, 2004

Mr. Kelly Parkhill
Director for Industry Support and Analysis
Import Administration, Room 3713
U.S. Department of Commerce
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Parkhill:

I am writing to advise you of my ongoing, strong support for the continuation and expansion of the Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis (SIMA) system.

It is encouraging to find that the Department has decided to request comment on how to move forward speedily to fulfill the Administration's prior commitments to expand and extend the existing import monitoring system.

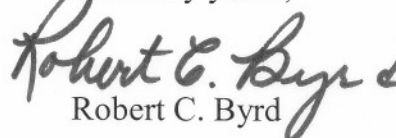
I note that Secretary Evans has stated the system will be extended for an indefinite period of time and will be expanded to cover additional steel products. It is essential that the system be maintained without expiration, and that it be expanded to cover nearly all imported steel products, not simply those "certain steel products" that were the subject of the prior Section 201 investigation.

Extension and enhancement of the steel import monitoring system is needed to make certain that government policymakers have access to the most accurate and timely import data possible. We need every weapon in our trade arsenal to make certain that our domestic producers have access to the most up-to-date and transparent information possible concerning foreign steel imports.

Having been provided the opportunity to submit comment in this regard, I would greatly appreciate your providing me with periodic updates regarding the ongoing progress of the Department's efforts to invigorate, expand, and extend the SIMA system.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,


Robert C. Byrd