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United States Senate

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Kelly Parkhill
Director for Industry Support and Analysis
Import Administration, Room 3713
Department of Commerce
14th Street and Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Mr. Parkhill:

I am writing in response to the August 25, 2004, request for comments on the Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis system, and would like to urge that an expanded and permanent system be put in place as soon as possible.

The Administration's enactment of this system two years ago has proved to be an effective means of collecting and publicizing vital information, while in no way limiting or hindering imports. The commitment by Secretary Evans and others last December to extend this program and broaden it to cover other steel products makes sense because markets work better with more information. That is the basis of this program and is why it is so important to act quickly to renew and improve it.

The import monitoring system is fully WTO-consistent and is similar to programs in place abroad. The Administration's commitment to make this program indefinite and to apply it to other basic steel products should be implemented as soon as possible.

Thank you for the chance to comment on this critical program. I would appreciate being informed of developments in implementing the new system.

Sincerely,



George V. Voinovich
United States Senator

cc: Donald L. Evans, Secretary of Commerce

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