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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1404  
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Mr. Kelly Parkhill  
Director for Industry Support and Analysis  
United States Department of Commerce  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Parkhill:

I am writing in response to the Department's August 25<sup>th</sup> request for comments on the steel monitoring program. I want to urge the Administration to fulfill its commitment and put into place a new and expanded import monitoring system.

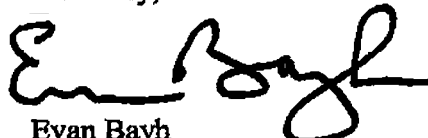
As you know, in connection with the President's decision to terminate the steel safeguard measures, the Administration committed to making the steel import monitoring program permanent and expanding it to other steel products. However, over nine months have now passed and the Administration has yet to issue a proposed rule concerning the program.

With the recent volatility we have seen in world steel markets, it is imperative that government policy makers and industry participants have access to the best data possible. The current monitoring system -set to expire next March - has been successful in providing critical information in timely manner. However, it only applies to the steel products that were covered by the safeguard action and the Administration wisely proposed expanding the monitoring system to include other steel products. I strongly urge the Administration to act on its own recommendation.

The steel import monitoring system does not hinder imports, but merely serves as a common sense mechanism to ensure that both the government and market participants can react quickly to material changes in imports. Given the historic steps that the U.S. steel industry has taken to recover and restructure, maintaining and improving the import monitoring system is the very least that we can do. A monitoring system is in full compliance with our WTO obligations and other countries have similar systems in place.

I urge you to act as quickly as possible to establish a permanent and expanded monitoring system. I would appreciate a report on your progress concerning this matter at the earliest possible date.

Sincerely,



Evan Bayh  
United States Senator

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