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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0103

September 24, 2004

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

Dear Mr. Parkhill:

By means of this letter, we are submitting comments on the Advanced Notice of Proposed Rule Making regarding the Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis system. This program is extremely important to our steel producers in Alabama, and we urge you to extend the program beyond its current expiration date and to expand it where appropriate to include additional steel products.

We believe that the monitoring of imported steel has been, and will continue to be, crucial to the survival of this industry. Due to the volatility of the global steel market, import monitoring serves as a vital early warning to both steel producers and policy makers.

In the past, steel companies have had to resort to layoffs and closures because of delays in legal safeguard proceedings. We believe that accurate and timely information will help prevent similar problems in the future and ensure that sound decisions are made as they relate to this industry.

We also believe that it is important to expand the current Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis system to include additional products that were excluded in the President's steel 201 remedy. Alabama produces a variety of these products, which continue to be threatened by low-cost import surges. Our monitoring system should include all products that are a part of this volatile market.

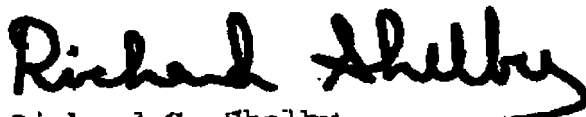
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Mr. Kelly Parkhill
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Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. We look forward to working with you on this matter in the future.

Sincerely,


Richard C. Shelby
United States Senate


Jeff Sessions
United States Senate

Cc: The Honorably Donald L. Evans, Secretary of Commerce