

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0809

September 23, 2004

The Honorable James Jochum
Assistant Secretary for Import Administration
Herbert C. Hoover Building
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Assistant Secretary Jochum:

I am writing to express my support for the inclusion of wire and wire products in the Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis (SIMA) System and the negotiations between major steel producing countries through the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Wire and wire products are an important component of the steel industry, producing over \$9 billion in annual sales and employing over 21,000 workers in 156 plants in 33 states, including Delaware. In fact, the Insteel Industries plant in Wilmington, Delaware, employs 68 people and produces approximately 60,000 tons of welded wire fabric per year.

It is important that wire and wire products -- including carbon, stainless and other alloy steel wire, wire strand and rope, barbed wire, wire cloth, grill, netting and fencing, and wire nails and staples -- not be overlooked by any final steel subsidy agreement. I am very pleased that the United States has been the leader in pressing for the inclusion of wire and wire products in the OECD steel subsidy negotiations. And I urge you to continue to press our trading partners to resume negotiations for a steel subsidy agreement, which is important to the U.S. steel industry as well as all of the downstream industries.

Further, I support the continuation of the SIMA program for monitoring imports steel and steel products. However, wire and wire products -- such as the items listed above, carbon wire rod, stainless wire rod, alloy wire rod, and garment hangers -- should be added to the scope of the SIMA system.

Thank you for your assistance in insuring that his vital part of the American steel industry is included in these important programs.

Sincerely,



Thomas R. Carper
United States Senator