



United Steelworkers of America

AFL-CIO-CLC

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June 5, 2002

The Honorable Philip M. Crane
Chairman, Subcommittee on Trade
House Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Via Fax - 202-225-2610: Original to Follow

Re: Public comments on H.R. 4128; a Bill to amend the country-of-origin marking of fittings and flanges

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On behalf of the members of the United Steelworkers of America (USWA) we submit these comments to the committee in response to the request for written comments on technical corrections to U.S. trade laws and miscellaneous duty suspension bills.

The USWA membership has always supported the enforcement of the U.S. trade laws, including the laws which pertain to the markings of steel products. These marking requirements are important because they ensure that the purchaser or consumer of the product is aware of the country-of-origin of the product. The provisions as outlined in H.R. 4128 do not strengthen the markings requirements. In fact, as written, H.R. 4128 weakens the markings requirements because it allows a simple processing change to change the country-of-origin for markings purposes. It denies the end user from knowing what the real origin is of the product and we believe that this contradicts what is currently included in current markings rules.

Our members are proud to be part of the U.S. steel industry and the movement throughout the country that is responsible for producing high quality steel products. In turn, we have worked hard to ensure that the industry is able to compete in this market and abroad, and that the U.S. trade laws of which the industry relies on are not weakened.

We believe that the provisions in this legislation weaken current markings law and therefore we express our opposition to this legislation.

Thank you for allowing us this opportunity to provide our comments on this legislation.

Sincerely,

William J. Klinefelter
Assistant to the President
Legislative and Political Director