

KENNY HULSHOF

9TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF
OFFICIAL CONDUCT

HOUSE REPUBLICAN POLICY COMMITTEE



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

November 18, 2004

The Honorable James Jochum
Assistant Secretary for Import Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Jochum:

I am writing to express my support for the renewal and expansion of the Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis (SIMA) system and to urge that you continue in your efforts to press our trading partners to resume negotiations on a steel subsidies agreement.

As you know, the purpose of the SIMA system is to provide accurate and timely information on imports of steel products, which will help monitor significant changes or possible surges in steel imports. SIMA is non-restrictive and poses no barriers to steel imports. When discussions arise next year on whether the SIMA system should be maintained, I hope you will consider renewing the system and expanding the coverage of imports to include steel wire and wire products.

I would also like to express my support and appreciation for the role the U.S. has taken in the steel subsidy negotiations occurring under the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). When negotiations commence next year to reduce or eliminate trade-distorting subsidies in the steel sector, I hope you will continue in your efforts to include wire and wire products in a finalized agreement. It is of vital importance that we level the playing field among domestic and foreign wire product manufacturers.

The domestic wire and wire products industry is very important to the U.S. economy as it employs over 22,000 workers across 32 states. Furthermore, manufacturers of steel wire and wire products have combined annual sales in excess of \$9.7 billion. The continuation and expansion of the SIMA system and inclusion of wire products in a steel subsidies agreement would be very beneficial to domestic steel wire and wire products manufacturers.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. If you need further information on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenny Hulshof".

Kenny Hulshof
Member of Congress

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