

BOB GIBBS
7TH DISTRICT, OHIO

2446 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6265

110 COTTAGE STREET
ASHLAND, OH 44805
(419) 207-0650

110 CENTRAL PLAZA SOUTH
CANTON, OH 44702
(330) 737-1631

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3507

TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE
SUBCOMMITTEES
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BIOTECHNOLOGY, HORTICULTURE,
AND RESEARCH

October 10, 2017

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Ross:

I write to respectfully encourage the completion of the Commerce Department's report on steel imports and their effects on national security under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962. I have heard from multiple constituent businesses regarding the investigation and commend you for this undertaking. The longer this process takes, the more uncertainty is injected into global steel trade.

As you know, imported steel at greatly reduced cost has placed the domestic steel industry under insurmountable pressure. Foreign countries have rushed product into the U.S. market in anticipation of promised action to adjust imports, and in June and July of this year, foreign steel imports hit their highest monthly total in more than two years capturing 30 percent of the U.S. market. These import levels are not sustainable and the investigation must be completed to ensure our steel and aluminum workers are not devastated by the influx of cheap imported metals.

As you finalize your recommendations, I also encourage you to consider the needs of American businesses that rely on certain types of niche steel products, not currently produced in the United States. These businesses greatly contribute to our economy, and should not be subject to uncertainty due to circumstances beyond their control.

I appreciate your consideration of this important matter that will have a significant impact on Ohio jobs, and I encourage the Department of Commerce and the Administration to take swift and strong action to protect the domestic steel industry that is so critical to America's national security and economy.

Sincerely,



Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress