

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4804

COMMITTEES
APPROPRIATIONS
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
INTELLIGENCE
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

October 6, 2017

The Honorable Wilbur Ross
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Ross:

I commend you for your role in the Trump Administration's decision to self-initiate an investigation into the impact of steel and aluminum imports on our national security under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962. I write now to inquire into the status of these investigations and urge their prompt conclusion.

Steel and aluminum are bedrock components of our military operations, and American steel and aluminum suppliers have played a critical role in providing our Armed Forces with the materials they need for their ships, tanks, and bridges, and steel even forms a major component of our energy infrastructure.

Our national security requires that our nation maintain a healthy industrial base that will allow us to meet all future challenges. Being forced to rely on imports of steel from nations like China, who do not always share our foreign policy goals, would place our nation in a weakened position, especially in times of war. Unfortunately, absent relief from Chinese companies' aggressive dumping practices, that is the situation we may face in the future.

In the months since the investigations began, steel imports have only increased as foreign suppliers have rushed to dump additional product onto the American market in anticipation of the investigation's conclusion. This state of affairs is hurting American workers and companies, who cannot be asked to continue bearing the cost of inaction here. I urge the administration to bring these investigations to a close and provide a meaningful remedy to protect our nation's steel and aluminum industries from such egregious dumping practices.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Joe Manchin, III
United States Senator