June 19, 2014

The Honorable Penny Pritzker
Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Pritzker:

We write to you today on behalf of the thousands of Ohioans employed by Ohio’s steel industry to stress our serious concern over the threat of illegal steel imports. We urge that the U.S. Department of Commerce use all tools at its disposal to thoroughly investigate the deceptive trade efforts of foreign competitors.

Rule-breaking is cheating. And trade based on deception can never be “fair” trade. When our trade laws are violated and foreign countries illegally ‘dump’ steel products into our market, the domestic steel industry and its thousands of employees — the communities and our country suffer greatly. In addition to the economic harm to families and communities through job loss, our country’s national security and its ability to build our critical infrastructure is also placed at risk. The Ohio Steel Council and its members must rely on our government to enforce our country’s trade laws and level the playing field.

As the U.S. Department of Commerce continues to investigate matters of illegal trade impacting the domestic steel industry, we urge that all information be reviewed and that fairness and transparency are at the forefront of all final trade case decisions. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Emily Petrovich
United Steel Corporation
Chair, Ohio Steel Council Government Affairs Committee

Brenda Schulz
Nucor Steel Marion, Inc.
Chair, Ohio Steel Council

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About The Ohio Steel Council

Comprised of steel producers, processors and suppliers, the Ohio Steel Council serves as the voice of the steel industry in Ohio. By promoting the benefits of a healthy steel sector, the Council strives to educate key constituents about the industry’s overall importance and significant economic impact. A participant in the legislative process, the Ohio Steel Council provides insight on policy issues, including their potential effects on Ohio’s steel industry and the state’s economy. Additional information about the Ohio Steel Council is available at www.ohiosteelcouncil.org. Ohio Steel Council members include: AK Steel Corporation, AMG Vanadium, Inc., ArcelorMittal, Charter Steel, Cliffs Natural Resources, Inc., Eramet Marietta, Inc., Nucor Steel Marion, Inc., Stein, Inc., The Timken Company, Tata Steel, Tube City IMS, United States Steel Corporation and Wheeling & Lake Erie Railway.