



**Testimony of
Daniel Simmons
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Granite City Works
President
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Before the
Office of the United States Trade Representative
Hearing on the
"Global Steel Industry Situation"
April 12, 2016**

Assistant U.S. Trade Representative Jim Sanford and members of the panel, I want to thank you for taking the time to examine the state of the global steel industry and for inviting me to testify on behalf of the thousands of workers, and all those living in the communities where they live, who have been hurt by the current crisis.

My name is Daniel Simmons, and I work at the U.S. Steel Granite City Works in Granite City, Illinois. As the President of United Steelworkers Local 1899, I'm proud to be here today to represent my coworkers and I'm proud of my 38 years of hard work at Granite City.

Granite City is a fully integrated steel mill: we go from the "rocks to the docks." This means that we do not recycle scrap steel or process imported steel. Instead, we take raw materials to produce steel from scratch, producing slab steel. We then process these slabs based on customer demand to their specifications. We sell to a wide range of clients, often with demanding quality

standards, from automotive to construction to oil tubular goods. In one case, it meant making a grade of steel for a major auto manufacturer that no other mill had been able to successfully produce. I'm proud to say we made it.

Despite the high-quality steel we are able to produce efficiently and reliably, our facility operated at reduced levels starting late 2014 and, in December of last year, the plant was idled. This has led to layoffs of 1,500 of the plants 2,000 total employees.

Preliminary findings in the pending trade enforcement cases have allowed 145 of my fellow steelworkers to return to work. But more must be done for the 1,500 others who remain out of work because of unfair trade competition and global overcapacity in steel manufacturing. They have gone through so much uncertainty and stress over the past two years as we've wrestled with the onslaught of dumped steel, and since the layoffs in December just before the holidays, things are only getting worse.

I can't stop anywhere in town, or even in the surrounding communities, without being asked about when the Granite City Works will start back up. When so many workers are forced to tighten their belt, and so many suppliers no longer have such a big customer to sell to, the whole area is impacted.

Everyone from restaurants and grocery stores to appliance shops and retail stores are feeling the pain. Many suppliers to the steel mill are in serious trouble: Tube City, a scrapyards, has closed until further notice; Stein Mill's Service, who haul slag for the plant, have laid off workers; and, a number of local machine shops have had to reduce their workforces. And because USS Granite City proactively invested in its facility to stay cutting edge, trades workers who worked on improvements are also out of work.

For the sake of our community, for my fellow steelworkers, for all those in our armed services reliant on high-grade American steel for protection, and for our entire manufacturing sector, we need to stand up for steel. I ask that you pursue every option at your disposal to ensure that we can get back to work as quickly as possible.