



**Testimony of
David Clark
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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 US. 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, who, like me, are unable to work because of the current crisis in global overcapacity in steel making.

My names is David Clark and I have worked at United States Steel Fairfield Tubular Operations for 16 years, performing on turn and preventative maintenance and repairs as needed. At our plant we make Seamless Oil Country Tubular Goods (OCTG) and we were formerly a fully integrated steel mill. Our flat rolled products went to a wide range of products from appliances to electric motors, our OCTG pipe went into the petroleum and natural gas extraction, exploration and transmission segments of the energy market.

The closure of the bulk of our facilities has had an impact on many of my friends and coworkers. We currently do not produce the raw material to supply our pipe mill with steel for conversion into pipe. Our coating line depends on flat rolled product from other suppliers to process as well.

In August of 2015 our fully integrated facility went through a series of closures that ended iron and steel making, casting and all flat rolled carbon steel converting and finishing operations. This left over 1,000 people without work, in an economy that was already devastated by the closure of numerous coal and coke operations.

While our steel operations are shutdown, our pipe mill currently only runs at 25%. We have seen various layoffs, and we expect more to continue. The plant currently is only

running facilities that have orders, then placing workers on layoff until the next orders come in.

The Birmingham, Alabama economy has suffered numerous factory closures over the last several years and the number of affected employees is only going to continue to grow, unless we do something to put a stop to unfair trade. U.S. Pipe in North Birmingham, McWayne Pipe, Stockham Valve and Fittings, Steelscape and others have ceased operations in the area that was once known as the "Pittsburgh of the South".

My community is struggling, many employees are relocating to find jobs that can sustain a family. Our union local has opened up a food bank in order to help the members who have lost jobs. My wife and nephew both volunteer at the food bank with numerous others to help people not only with food items but to help steer them to any additional help they may need.

The outlook is bleak for the business in our town. All of the suppliers in the area have been forced to cut positions, some local gas stations have ceased 24 hour operations as the traffic at shift changes went away, and retailers are leaving the city. Shortly after the closure Walmart and other retailers left the City of Fairfield and the loss of sales tax revenue has placed the city in dire financial situations. It has gotten to the point where the city council in Fairfield is debating the closure of the police department and the suspension of other city services in order to survive.

In order to "prepare for the worst" our family has not just started cutting expenses and saving more, but we have also started looking at available positions in the general area as well as other facilities across the country.

Unfortunately, my community is not the only one facing this situation. While American steelworkers continue to do everything we can to ensure the viability of the industry, we alone cannot seem stop the injury caused by the massive overcapacity, government subsidies, and unfair pricing that will come from other countries with whom we compete. This is why I am here today to let you know how unfair traders' action effects entire communities, like mine in Fairfield, Alabama. If you allow these unfair practices to go unanswered the consequences will be dire for all our communities. No U.S. steelworker should have to lose a job to allow unfairly traded steel into this country.