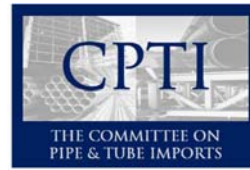




**American  
Iron and Steel  
Institute**



January 11, 2021

President-Elect Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear President-Elect Biden,

On behalf of American steel producers, fabricators and workers, we congratulate you on your election as the 46<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. We stand ready to work with you and your administration to strengthen the U.S. economy and create new jobs for American workers in communities across the country.

The American steel industry serves as the backbone of the U.S. manufacturing sector and is essential to our national and economic security and to our nation's critical infrastructure. Our industry is also proud to be the cleanest and most energy efficient of the leading steel industries in the world.

Driven by global overcapacity in steel, repeated surges in steel imports over the past decade threatened our industry and the jobs it supports. Given the critical role of the industry to our nation's defense and its critical infrastructure, the U.S. government imposed a comprehensive program of tariffs and quotas on steel imports in 2018 to protect our national security. This allowed the industry to restart idled mills, rehire laid-off workers, and begin investing tens of billions of dollars in new and upgraded plants.

Unfortunately, the steel industry's recovery was set back by the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused a significant drop in demand last spring, forcing painful job cuts as steel mills, fabricators and pipe and tube mills either cut back production or shut down entirely. As customers have restarted production, the steel industry has begun to recover, but we remain very vulnerable to new surges in imports. Last year, the OECD projected that steel overcapacity would grow to 700 million metric tons in 2020 – eight times the total steel output of the United States last year. China, Vietnam and Turkey, among others, continue to increase their steel production even as the pandemic has caused demand for steel to drop around the world. Others, such as Korea, Russia, Ukraine and Indonesia, continue to export large and increasing shares of their steel production to other markets.

Continuation of the tariffs and quotas is essential to ensuring the viability of the domestic steel industry in the face of this massive and growing excess steel capacity. Removing or weakening of these measures before major steel producing countries

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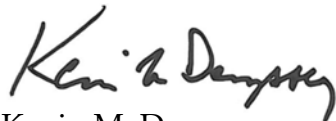
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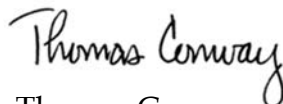
eliminate their overcapacity and the subsidies and other trade-distorting policies that have fueled the steel crisis will only invite a new surge in imports with devastating effects to domestic steel producers and their workers. We must not repeat the experience of the 1990s, when the demand shock of the Asian Financial Crisis resulted in surges in steel imports from many regions of the world and led to widespread steel industry bankruptcies and job losses.

Thank you for your commitment to building back better our economy by promoting American manufacturing and the family-supporting jobs this sector supports. We stand ready to work with your administration to address the global trade distortions in steel that continue to threaten our industry and its workers.

Sincerely,



Kevin M. Dempsey  
President and CEO  
*American Iron and  
Steel Institute*



Thomas Conway  
International President  
*United Steelworkers*



Philip K. Bell  
President  
*Steel Manufacturers  
Association*



Roger B. Schagrin  
Executive Director  
and General Counsel  
*Committee on Pipe and  
Imports*



Charles J. Carter, S.E., P.E., Ph.D.  
President  
*American Institute of Steel  
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