

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 20, 2017

The Honorable Wilbur L. Ross
Secretary of Commerce
Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20230

RE: Section 232 Investigation on Aluminum

Dear Secretary Ross,

As members of the Congressional Aluminum Caucus, we are sincerely interested in the Department's initiation of a Section 232 investigation on the effect of aluminum imports on U.S. national security. The Aluminum Caucus is composed of approximately 50 House members with an interest in supporting aluminum jobs in our districts. For that reason, we support the Administration's efforts to review the strategic importance of aluminum and consider actions that will address unfair trade.

The aluminum industry is critically important to the U.S. economy and to the communities where it employs thousands of workers. The industry represents \$186 billion of economic activity and supports over 160,000 jobs. Aluminum products are used in numerous defense and infrastructure applications, making it essential to our national and economic security.

In recent years, the U.S. aluminum industry has been adversely affected by trade-related developments, most notably overcapacity of the Chinese industry as a result of government subsidies and policies. Over the past decade, China's aluminum production has increased from 10 percent of world production to over 55 percent. Its trade-distorting policies have depressed world prices, causing closures of U.S. aluminum smelters and suppressing the ability of U.S. producers to operate profitably, even with rising demand for aluminum products.


Chinese overcapacity and trade of Chinese products through third countries is the fundamental issue that needs to be addressed by the Administration. The U.S. aluminum industry is a diversified manufacturing sector, with manufacturing facilities engaged in production of aluminum products up and down the value chain. Chinese oversupply affects the full value chain. If not for Chinese policies that distort the global market, the U.S. industry would compete successfully in a globally integrated market.


In its review of the national and economic security role of aluminum, the Department should also recognize that the U.S. aluminum industry has strong and mutually beneficial connections with many of our trading partners, and its role in all phases of the supply chain is critical for the health of our industry. For example, U.S. aluminum trade with Canada is strategically vital and supports many American jobs. A trade remedy that impairs aluminum trade with Canada would not be in our national security or economic interest. There are many other examples as well.

A vibrant and healthy U.S. aluminum industry is necessary to support national security and job growth. We appreciate the Administration's efforts to make trade fair and equitable for all Americans and look forward to the 232 report and its recommendations to the President.

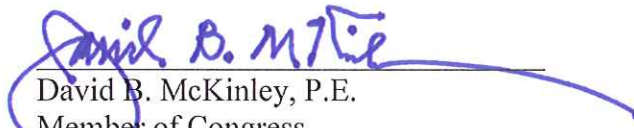
Sincerely,


Bill Johnson
Member of Congress


Suzan DelBene
Member of Congress


Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress


Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress


David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress


David P. Joyce
Member of Congress

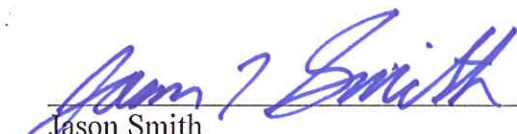

Marcy Kaptur
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