Dear Mr. President:

As the leaders of America’s steel and steel-related companies, with over 75,000 collective employees, we write to urge you to take immediate action under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962. Now is the time for Presidential action to prevent excess steel capacity and surging steel imports from undermining our national security and the viability of the U.S. steel industry.

As we have said before, the need for action is urgent. Since the 232 investigation was announced in April 2017, imports have continued to surge. In June of 2017, steel imports hit their highest monthly total in more than two years by capturing 30% of the U.S. market. We need strong action that meaningfully adjusts imports and restores healthy levels of capacity utilization and profitability to the domestic industry to ensure we can continue to produce the steel needed for our national security and critical infrastructure.

Excess steel capacity is the main cause of the sustained surge in imports, and as you have articulated, the surge is not just a China problem. For example, in the first eleven months of 2017, the offshore countries shipping the largest amount of steel imports into the U.S. were Brazil, South Korea, Russia, Turkey, and Japan. Foreign steel imports took 27% of the U.S. market share in 2017, yet U.S. capacity utilization only averaged 74 percent. Efforts to address global excess capacity through international organizations, like the G-20 and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), have to date failed to produce an effective solution, and the U.S. industry continues to suffer the consequences of surging steel imports. This is why a remedy under Section 232 is necessary.

We urge you to implement a remedy that is comprehensive and broad based, covering all major sources of steel imports and the full range of steel products, with only limited exceptions for products not currently available in the United States. Any 232 action to adjust imports should
include measures to prevent circumvention and transshipment, as we know from experience that any loopholes will be exploited, weakening the effectiveness of the remedy. We also urge you to implement a remedy that is of sufficient duration to allow the domestic industry to make new investments that will enhance U.S. steel production, thereby preserving and strengthening our national defense industrial base.

The sustained surge of steel imports into the United States is taking a serious toll on the domestic steel industry. Upon taking office you took bold steps to launch a path for addressing this ongoing crisis. Now only you can authorize action to stop the relentless inflow of foreign steel that threatens the future of the American steel industry and our ability to meet the country’s national security needs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

James Hrusovsky
President & CEO
Alton Steel, Inc.

Roger K. Newport
CEO
AK Steel Corporation

John Brett
President & CEO
ArcelorMittal USA

Alton Davis
President & COO
Bayou Steel Group

Burke Byer
President & CEO
Byer Steel

Bob Venable
President & COO
Charter Manufacturing

Lourenco Goncalves
Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer
Cleveland-Cliffs Inc.

Barbara Smith
President & CEO
Commercial Metals Company

David Ruud
President
DTE Power & Industrial

Carl Czarnik
Vice President of Operations & People
Gerdau Long Steel North America
Jack Schultz  
President  
Jersey Shore Steel Company

John Hritz  
President & CEO  
JSW Steel (USA) Inc

Chris Armstrong  
President & CEO  
Keystone Consolidated Industries, Inc.

Timothy Egnot  
President & COO  
McDonald Steel Corporation

Craig Moore  
President  
Mid American Steel & Wire

John Ferriola  
President & CEO  
Nucor Corporation

Chuck Schmitt  
President  
SSAB Americas

Mark Millett  
President & CEO  
Steel Dynamics, Inc.

Kevin Mullen  
President  
Sterling Steel

Robert Turner  
Senior Vice President  
Stupp Corporation

Ward J. Timken, Jr.  
Chairman, CEO & President  
TimkenSteel Corporation

David B. Burritt  
President & CEO  
United States Steel Corporation

Luis Garcia  
President  
W. Silver, Inc.

Thomas J. Gibson  
President & CEO  
American Iron and Steel Institute on behalf of its U.S. Producer-Members

Philip K. Bell  
President  
Steel Manufacturers Association on behalf of its U.S. Producer-Members