June 7, 2018

To: House Steel Caucus Chiefs of Staff and legislative staff responsible for steel and/or trade issues

Oppose Legislation (PRINT Act) That Weakens Laws That Address Unfair Trade Practices

Background: The American steel industry, like many other industries, relies on U.S. antidumping and countervailing duty laws to provide relief from injurious, unfairly traded imports. Under these laws, antidumping and countervailing duties are imposed only after a lengthy and thorough investigation and only if the Department of Commerce determines that the imports are dumped or subsidized and the International Trade Commission determines that the domestic industry is injured by the dumped or subsidized imports. Any appeals of these determinations go to the federal courts, just as in other legal cases.

Situation: In the Senate, there is pending legislation – the Protecting Rational Incentives in Newsprint Trade (PRINT) Act, S. 2835 – which would intervene in these legal proceedings in one specific case and delay and condition relief against unfairly traded imports on a new standard – a “national interest” test which is not part of current law. This would be a dramatic departure from the way our antidumping and countervailing duty laws are administered – injecting a new political test into a legal proceeding. While this bill is tailored to one investigation, it would set a dangerous precedent for all other industries that use the trade laws to remedy injury from foreign unfair trade practices, as undoubtedly other companies that purchase dumped or subsidized imports will make similar requests in other cases, calling into question domestic industries’ abilities to effectively use the antidumping and countervailing duty laws.

Request: AISI urges all members of the House of Representatives to oppose any similar legislation to the Senate PRINT Act, if such legislation were introduced in the House.

Thank you for your continued efforts on behalf of American manufacturing.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Gibson
President and CEO