



**American
Iron and Steel
Institute**

Steelgram

Immediate Attention Requested

December 2, 2024

**To: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives
House staff assigned to steel and/or trade issues**

**SUPPORT H.R. 9151 - the Protecting American Industry and Labor from
International Trade Crimes Act of 2024**

Background: For too long China and Chinese government-directed entities have undertaken efforts to circumvent U.S. trade laws by way of fraud, transshipment of Chinese products and duty evasion. These efforts have harmed American businesses and the workers, resulting in the loss of many good paying jobs, including in the domestic steel industry. While there has been much focus on civil enforcement of our trade laws, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) does not have a task force dedicated to prosecuting criminal violations of U.S. customs and international trade statutes.

Situation: H.R. 9151, the Protecting American Industry and Labor from International Trade Crimes Act of 2024, sponsored by Rep. Ashley Hinson (R-IA), would establish a new task force or similar structure within the DOJ's Criminal Division dedicated to investigating and prosecuting trade crimes. Additionally, this legislation would provide training and technical assistance to other federal, state and local law enforcement agencies that investigate and prosecute trade crimes, which would allow for parallel criminal and civil enforcement actions. Finally, this legislation would require the Attorney General to submit an annual report to Congress that assesses the DOJ's efforts, statistics on trade related crimes and fund utilization. The legislation passed the House Judiciary Committee in September with unanimous bipartisan support. It is scheduled to be considered on the House floor on December 3rd.

Request: Please support H.R. 9151 when it is considered on the House floor this week. Approving this bill will help ensure that criminal activities to evade U.S. customs and trade laws are appropriately addressed by federal prosecutors. Full and vigorous enforcement of both the criminal and civil aspects of U.S. customs and trade laws is of critical importance to the American steel industry and its workers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin M. Dempsey".

Kevin M. Dempsey
President and CEO