

December 19, 2025

The Honorable Mike Crapo, Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jason Smith, Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ron Wyden,
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
United State Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Neal,
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

U.S. Industries Call for Action to Stop Duty Evasion and Frivolous Appeals

Dear Chairman Crapo, Chairman Smith, Ranking Member Wyden and Ranking Member Neal:

The undersigned organizations represent a broad spectrum of U.S. manufacturers, agricultural producers, and thousands of workers whose livelihoods depend on these industries. For many years the nation's manufacturing and agriculture sectors have shouldered the burden of chronic unfair trade and fraud that has led to decreased capacity utilization, production declines, job losses, and shrinking U.S. market share. The persistent misuse of American trade laws by some foreign importers has inflicted serious harm on our industries and the nation's economic security.

Recognizing the need to remedy duty evasion and fraud, Congress passed the Enforce and Protect Act (EAPA) as part of the Trade Facilitation and Enforcement Act (TFTEA) of 2015 which was signed into law on February 24, 2016. EAPA provides interested parties with the ability to submit allegations of antidumping and countervailing duty evasion to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), which then investigates these claims. However, the current EAPA statute has incentivized frivolous appeals and litigation by importers caught violating U.S. customs laws, while meaningful relief for American producers is often delayed or denied. Gaps in the statute have allowed certain importers to exploit loopholes and avoid lawfully imposed duties, with real consequences for impacted U.S. companies, workers and communities.

For these reasons, we strongly support the actions taken by Representatives Mike Kelly (R-Pa.) and Chris DeLuzio (D-Pa.) in introducing H.R. 6446, the Strengthening Trade Enforcement and Evasion Limitations (STEEL) Act on December 4, 2025. This legislation

would empower CBP to proactively self-initiate EAPA investigations when credible evidence suggests duty evasion by foreign importers. Under current law, CBP must wait for interested domestic parties to submit detailed—and often non-public—information before acting. The STEEL Act also requires payment of assessed duties before an importer may appeal an EAPA determination, helping to deter frivolous litigation. Together, these reforms would strengthen trade enforcement and deliver timely, meaningful relief to American manufacturers and workers who depend on fair and effective trade laws.

We urge Congress to address the ongoing problem of duty evasion and foreign cheating by passing the STEEL Act and safeguarding U.S. investment, production, and jobs.

Respectfully,

Accuride Corporation
American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI)
American Shrimp Processors Association (ASPA)
American Wire Producers Association (AWPA)
Committee on Pipe and Tube Imports (CPTI)
Kitchen Cabinet Manufacturers Association (KCMA)
Municipal Castings Association
Specialty Steel Industry of North America (SSINA)
Southern Shrimp Alliance
Steel Manufacturers Association (SMA)
Trinity Metals, LLC
U.S. Lumber Coalition
U.S. OCTG Manufacturers Association (USOMA)