



July 25, 2025

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

We the undersigned organizations representing the American steel industry write to thank you for your actions this year to strengthen the tariffs on steel imports under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962. We applaud your bold action to increase the tariffs to 50 percent, as well as to expand the tariff coverage to a broader range of steel derivative products and your strong stand against granting product-specific exclusions from these tariffs.

The Section 232 steel tariffs remain critical for the American steel industry, as global steel market conditions remain challenging and industry capacity utilization remains below the 80 percent utilization goal identified in the Commerce Department's 2018 Section 232 report. Foreign government subsidies and other market-distorting policies and unfair trade practices have led to increased overproduction of steel in foreign markets in recent years, and this global steel excess capacity crisis is forecast to grow even worse in the coming years.

Unfortunately, rather than taking actions to address the impact of the global steel overcapacity crisis in their own markets, many of our trading partners seem focused on negotiating unwarranted exemptions to the U.S. Section 232 steel tariffs. We have seen reports of requests from many governments, including Japan, Korea, Vietnam and Indonesia, for exemptions from the Section 232 steel tariffs as part of their negotiating positions regarding the reciprocal tariffs. Given that the reciprocal tariffs and the related negotiations are intended to reduce the trade deficits the U.S. has with other countries and address the policy changes other nations need to take in order to provide greater market access for U.S. goods and services, there is no basis for negotiating away the steel tariffs as part of these reciprocal tariff negotiations.

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The American steel industry respectfully urges against granting special arrangements to foreign countries that would eliminate or reduce steel Section 232 tariff coverage as these negotiations continue. We believe it is essential to maintain an effective Section 232 steel tariff program as a central feature of your trade policy agenda to promote U.S. national and economic security. As your policies advance the resurgence of U.S. manufacturing, the American steel industry can provide the volume and grades of steel that will be demanded for this manufacturing renaissance.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and your administration to uphold the integrity of the steel Section 232 program and ensure the health and competitiveness of the American steel industry, which serves as the backbone of the entire manufacturing sector and is critical to our national security.

Sincerely,

American Iron and Steel Institute
Steel Manufacturers Association
Committee on Pipe and Tube Imports
Specialty Steel Industry of North America
American Institute of Steel Construction