



**American
Iron and Steel
Institute**

Steelgram

Immediate Attention Requested

February 9, 2016

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

PLEASE SUPPORT THE CUSTOMS BILL CONFERENCE REPORT

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the U.S. producer members of the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI), I write to request that you support the conference report to H.R. 644, the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015. The conference report includes the Enforcing Orders and Reducing Customs Evasion (ENFORCE) Act, which is a high priority for the steel industry because it would give the domestic industry and its workers the ability to petition U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to take action when there is evidence that foreign companies are evading the payment of duties intended to offset injurious dumping and subsidies. The ENFORCE Act would require CBP to launch an investigation and make a determination in response to an industry request to address trade remedy evasion by a set deadline. Currently allegations of evasion often go unaddressed for indefinite periods of time, which allows foreign dumped and subsidized steel to continue to enter the U.S. market without offsetting duties, causing additional injury to the industry.

Dumped and subsidized steel imports are taking a record share of the U.S. market, and are resulting in major facility idlings and layoffs. The U.S. trade remedy laws are the only means by which domestic industry can mitigate the harm inflicted by such unfairly traded foreign imports and the industry has filed a number of trade cases last year to address this injury. Should remedies be applied in these pending cases, the effectiveness of those remedies hinges on ensuring that the offsetting duties authorized by law are in fact collected by CBP. Enactment of the ENFORCE Act will help to ensure that is achieved.

The domestic steel industry therefore urges all Senators concerned about the enforcement of our trade laws against dumped and subsidized imports to support passage of the final customs bill conference report that includes the ENFORCE Act.

Please vote YES on the Conference Report to H.R. 644, the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas J. Gibson".

Thomas J. Gibson
President and CEO