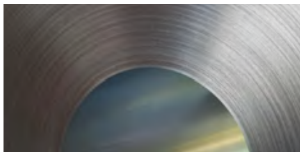

Preserve Steel Tariffs: Key Messages

TARIFFS WORKED

The American steel industry is essential to our national security and critical infrastructure, supports nearly two million American jobs, and is among the most energy efficient in the world.

Repeated surges in unfairly-traded steel imports over the past decade threatened national security and led the U.S. government to impose steel tariffs in 2018.

The steel tariffs have worked.

Foreign imports, which took almost 27% of the market in 2017, fell to just 19% in 2019; capacity utilization increased from 74% to almost 80% in two years; previously idled steel mills were able to restart and rehire laid-off workers; and, the industry began investing billions of dollars in new and upgraded plants.

GLOBAL PANDEMIC

During the COVID-19 shock, steel customers in automotive and other industries suspended and slowed activity, and steel demand plummeted, falling by 25% in April 2020 alone.

American steelmakers cut back production and capacity utilization fell by nearly 30 percentage points between the middle of March and early May.

Steel plants were operating at just over half of their capacity -- the lowest rate since the Great Recession.

More than 10,000 steelworkers have lost their jobs since March.

The industry is recovering, but is far below a viable long-run level. The impact of COVID-19 on the steel industry would have been far worse if the tariffs were not in place.

HISTORY COULD REPEAT

Previous major global economic downturns, like the Asian financial crisis of the late 1990s and the Great Recession of 2008, led to surges in steel imports into the U.S.

Foreign steel industries dumped their excess production to the U.S. market when demand in their own markets deteriorated.

Removing or weakening the tariffs risks history repeating itself --- where previous steel import crises in the United States have followed major economic downturns.

OVERCAPACITY REMAINS A THREAT

While most steel global steel producers cut back on production as a result of COVID-19, China continued to increase its production -- even after setting a new record level of steel production last year.

Global steel overcapacity is once again growing in China and elsewhere. Overcapacity is estimated to reach 700 million metric tons this year -- fueled by foreign government subsidies and other forms of state intervention.

That would amount to almost eight times the total steel output of the United States last year.

Preserving the tariffs is essential to preventing another import surge that would destroy good-paying jobs and undermine a critical U.S. industry.

SAVE STEEL JOBS.
PRESERVE THE STEEL TARIFFS.

American Iron and Steel Institute

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