April 15, 2021

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senate
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rob Portman
United States Senate
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Brown and Portman:

On behalf of the member companies of the American Iron and Steel Institute, I am writing to express our strong support for the Eliminating Global Market Distortions to Protect American Jobs Act of 2021.

This legislation will strengthen the U.S. trade remedy laws in several key respects, including by enhancing the tools available to obtain timely relief against repeat offenders of our trade laws and by addressing the growing problem of cross-border subsidization. These and other provisions in your bill will enhance the ability of the U.S. government to enforce the antidumping and countervailing duty laws, and if enacted, will ensure the U.S. trade laws remain an effective tool for American producers and workers to seek relief from the unfair trade practices of foreign producers and exporters.

As you know, the American steel industry has faced repeated surges of dumped and subsidized steel imports into the U.S. market in recent years. In response, domestic steelmakers have successfully sought relief under the U.S. trade remedy laws, only to face new surges in imports of the same products from other countries not subject to the original trade remedy orders. The provisions in this legislation will help to address this problem by making it possible for domestic producers to quickly obtain relief against these subsequent surges in unfairly traded imports.

This legislation also addresses the growing problem of cross-border subsidization, as foreign governments subsidize their own manufacturers not only at home but in third country markets as well. This is a growing problem for the steel industry as Chinese steelmakers are subsidized through China’s Belt and Road Initiative to build new export-oriented steelmaking facilities in other Asian countries, including Indonesia, Vietnam and other Southeast Asian nations.
This legislation will also ensure prompt completion of anticircumvention inquiries by setting out statutory timelines for these actions and clarifies the standards by which the Commerce Department will investigate allegations of currency undervaluation as a countervailable subsidy. It also ensures the continued ability of the Commerce Department to make “particular market situation” adjustments in antidumping investigations in all instances where home market prices or costs have been distorted.

By strengthening the effectiveness of the U.S. trade laws, your legislation will go a long way toward promoting fairer competition for U.S. industry and will give the American public confidence that their government has every tool available to fight for a level playing field for every American worker.

Thank you for your continued support of American manufacturing.

Sincerely,

Kevin M. Dempsey
President and Chief Executive Officer