April 5, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi            The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Speaker                                 Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives           U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515                   Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy           The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader                         Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives           U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515                   Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, Leader McCarthy and Leader McConnell:

As Congress begins the conference process on legislation aimed at enhancing U.S. competitiveness against China, we write today to urge that provisions strengthening the trade remedy laws to address unfair trade practices, particularly by China, be included in a final conference agreement.

The Eliminating Global Market Distortions to Protect American Jobs Act, also known as the Leveling the Playing Field Act 2.0, was originally introduced as S. 1187 in the Senate in April 2021 by Senators Sherrod Brown and Rob Portman. Representatives Terri Sewell and Bill Johnson subsequently introduced a revised version of this legislation as H.R. 6121 in December 2021. This legislation has bipartisan support in both chambers, and the House version of this legislation was included in the House-passed America COMPETES Act of 2022 (H.R. 4521).

The Leveling the Playing Field Act 2.0 will strengthen U.S. trade remedy laws in several key respects, in particular by enhancing the tools available to obtain timely relief against repeated waves of dumped and subsidized imports. It will also address the growing problem of cross-border subsidization, as China uses its Belt and Road Initiative to subsidize the building of Chinese-owned export-oriented production facilities in other Asian countries. Additionally, the legislation will set clear deadlines to ensure the timely completion of Commerce Department investigations of schemes by foreign producers and exporters to circumvent U.S. trade remedy orders. These improvements are essential to ensuring that our trade laws remain effective in addressing the unfair trade practices of the 21st century.
Inclusion of these trade remedy provisions in China competitiveness legislation will help ensure domestic industries and their workers can obtain effective relief from trade-distorting policies and practices by China and many other countries seeking to evade U.S. trade laws. Accordingly, we urge that the conferees working to resolve differences between the House and Senate China competitiveness bills maintain the Leveling the Playing Field Act 2.0 provisions in the final conference agreement.

Sincerely,

Alliance for American Manufacturing
American Institute of Steel Construction
American Iron and Steel Institute
Committee on Pipe and Tube Imports
Specialty Steel Industry of North America
Steel Manufacturers Association
United Steelworkers of America