Steelmakers in the United States have been reducing energy consumption and CO₂ emissions since 1990 and are among the cleanest steel producers in the world. Making steel in the United States is therefore good for the environment, and should not be discouraged through counterproductive, overly burdensome regulations.

**Background/Situation:**

- In the past year, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has undertaken an aggressive regulatory agenda and is expected to accelerate its rule making activities in all program areas in the coming year.

- The industry currently interacts with the EPA on more than 40 rules that may have significant impacts on steel manufacturers. For example, the agency is currently undertaking a number of actions in the air program ranging from reviewing and strengthening air quality standards to lowering emissions of major stationary sources. Many of these regulations will impose significant additional costs on steel producers as well as other energy intensive industries.

**Importance of Fair and Balanced Environmental Regulations:**

- The steel industry was recognized as having the steepest decline of total air emissions among nine manufacturing sectors studied in the EPA 2008 Sector Performance Report. Yet despite this record of leadership in meeting and exceeding environmental requirements, EPA’s development of multiple new regulations will create severe competitive disadvantages for the U.S. industry.

**Industry Policy Request:**

- **Examine the impact of the EPA and state agencies' regulatory agenda on jobs and the international competitiveness of U.S. manufacturers.**

- **Ensure greater emphasis on cost/benefit analysis of proposed regulations at both the federal and state levels.**

- **Encourage greater transparency and industry access to the process for the development and implementation of regulations at EPA and state agencies.**

- **Prevent unilateral regulations that would harm U.S. industrial competitiveness without addressing the global aspects of the very issues that they seek to address, such as EPA regulation of greenhouse gases from stationary sources under the Clean Air Act.**