

**Congressional Steel Caucus
Testimony of John Ferriola
Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer, Nucor Corporation
March 25, 2014**

On behalf of our 22,000 teammates, I would like to thank you for this opportunity to appear before you today. I am John Ferriola, Chairman, President & CEO of Nucor Corporation. With a production capacity of approximately 27 million tons, Nucor is the largest steel producer in the United States. We are also North America's largest recycler.

At Nucor, we are betting on the American economy for the long term. Despite the difficult economic conditions our country has weathered, we believe the U.S. is the best place to do business based on its superior workforce and the stability it provides compared to other markets around the world. We are backing up this view with significant investments. Since the last cyclical peak in 2008, Nucor has invested nearly \$8 billion in new and existing U.S. facilities in order to better serve our customers and the market as the economy gets stronger.

Our new direct-reduced iron plant in Louisiana is one of these investments. It started operations at the end of last year, marking the return of a technology that has not operated in the U.S. since 2009. This 750 million dollar facility is the

largest DRI plant in the world and home to 140 high-paying, high-quality manufacturing jobs.

With projects like this, we are doing our part to grow the economy by investing in the U.S. and creating jobs. We need our government to do its part too by backing up U.S. industry with strong trade enforcement. U.S. steel producers are among the lowest cost producers in the world. We enjoy clear advantages in practically every aspect of steelmaking, but the disregard many of our competitors have for the global rules of free trade wipes these advantages out. Our government cannot let cheaters off the hook. We need the government to go after unfair trade practices whenever and wherever they occur. Trade cases must be decided on their merits, free from diplomatic interference.

Two recent rulings raise concerns because they go against the concept of strong trade enforcement. In the first case, brought by our pipe and tube customers, the Department of Commerce let Korea and other producers of oil country tubular goods off the hook for dumping. In a second case, brought by Nucor and other rebar producers, Commerce ruled that Turkey was providing its industry with energy subsidies, but concluded they were of no value. Frankly, considering the energy intensive nature of steelmaking, it flies in the face of logic that energy

subsidies would have no value! This case was filed because rebar imports from Turkey and Mexico have doubled since 2010 and continue to surge this year. With modest growth in the U.S. rebar market, our producers should be benefitting but instead, the industry and its workers are being injured by dumped and subsidized imports.

We are excited about America's economic future, but to ensure success we need to shape our own future and not let our trading partners dictate the terms of the relationship. We welcome competition, but it must be on commercial terms.

When rules are broken, strong action must be taken in response. If we do this, American steel producers and manufacturers will be competing on equal footing and the American economy will prosper. Thank you.