

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 15, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to share our grave concern about the vulnerability of the electrical transformer supply chain and the fate of 1,500 jobs in Pennsylvania and Ohio. AK Steel, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cleveland-Cliffs Inc., is the only producer of grain-oriented electrical steel (GOES) in North America. GOES is produced at AK Steel's mill in Butler, Pennsylvania, employing approximately 1,400 workers, and finishing occurs at its Zanesville, Ohio operation, employing approximately 100 workers.

GOES is a critical and irreplaceable material used in the manufacturing of power and distribution transformers that sustain America's electrical grid. In its 2018 Steel Section 232 report, the Department of Commerce extensively cited national security concerns associated with GOES and emphasized the importance of ensuring continued production by AK Steel.

While relief from direct imports of GOES was imposed by your Administration under the Section 232 steel tariff program, the bad actors have found a way to circumvent those tariffs and quotas. Because the Section 232 tariffs do not apply to derivative electrical steel articles including laminations and cores (i.e., simply cut and shaped electrical steel) imports of those products are now surging into the United States. Mexico and Canada are being used as a staging ground for this blatant circumvention of the Section 232 program. The value of these imports from Canada and Mexico are up 87% from 2017 to 2019, indicating that approximately 43,000 tons of U.S. GOES have been displaced by this circumvention activity. A stunning 95% of Canadian and Mexican lamination and core exports are now coming into the United States yet there is no domestic GOES production in either Canada or Mexico.

AK Steel has announced that, unless this circumvention of the national security tariffs can be stopped, it will have no choice but to idle the Butler and Zanesville plants in 2020. Such an idling of these facilities would result in approximately 1,500 layoffs and the loss of America's last electrical steel producer. Such an outcome would leave the United States dangerously dependent on GOES-producing countries including China, Japan, Korea, and Russia for the stability of our electric grid.

Mr. President, we respectfully urge you to issue a proclamation that would cover these derivate steel products under your Administration's steel Section 232 program. In order to effectively

address circumvention and preserve this critical supply chain, tariffs must be applied to laminations and cores from Mexico and Canada.

Taking this action will not undermine the USMCA agreements already ratified by the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. In fact, when the new USMCA rules of origination are fully implemented, laminations and cores would rightly be considered originating from the country where the GOES was produced, not Canada or Mexico, which has no GOES production. This derivative product action would narrowly target intentional circumvention of the national security tariffs applying to GOES.

A successful resolution of this circumvention is critical to national security, the effectiveness of your administration's Section 232 steel program, and thousands of livelihoods in western Pennsylvania and central Ohio.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important economic and national security matter.

Sincerely,



Marcy Kaptur
Member of Congress

Troy Balderson
Member of Congress

Peter Stauber
Member of Congress

Steve Stivers
Member of Congress

Mike Bost
Member of Congress

Rick Crawford
Member of Congress

Scott Perry
Member of Congress

Peter J. Visclosky
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress

Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress

Anthony Gonzalez
Member of Congress

Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress

Tim Walberg
Member of Congress

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

Steve Chabot
Member of Congress

David P. Joyce
Member of Congress

Fred Keller
Member of Congress

Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress

Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress

Jack Bergman
Member of Congress

Conor Lamb
Member of Congress

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

Guy Reschenthaler
Member of Congress

Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

cc: USTR Ambassador Robert Lighthizer
Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross
Dr. Peter Navarro, Director of the Office of Trade and Manufacturing Policy