

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 29, 2013

Chairman Irving A. Williamson
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20436

Re: Oil Country Tubular Goods from India, Korea, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, and Vietnam (701-TA-499-500 and 731-TA-1215-1223 (Preliminary))

Dear Chairman Williamson:

We are writing to express our support for Ohio workers producing oil country tubular goods (OCTG), and to urge the Commission to ensure that unfairly-traded imports are not permitted to cause additional injury in the United States.

The U.S. OCTG industry is critical to Ohio and other states, and produces a high-tech, high value-added manufactured product that is essential to the steel sector, to the U.S. industrial base, and to our ability to develop the nation's energy reserves.

Imports of OCTG from the subject countries increased from 840,000 net tons in 2010 to more than 1,770,000 net tons in 2012. The high level of imports has continued into 2013, resulting in continued lost sales and a deterioration of the financial position of the domestic industry, despite being in a period of historically strong demand. Import data show that prices for subject products consistently and dramatically undersold the market, and the petitions in these proceedings have alleged dumping margins that typically exceed 30 percent, and in most cases are far higher.

For unfairly-traded imports to take sales and jobs from American workers and businesses is always troubling, and the domestic industry has battled repeated surges of unfair trade in recent years, which is in large part preventing the industry from taking advantage of increasingly favorable market conditions. At a time when manufacturing and employment is still very depressed, it is vital that our government combat unfair trade practices and provide an opportunity for American producers to compete on a level playing field. Now more than ever, it is crucial that this Commission fully and effectively enforce our fair trade laws, and ensure that foreign producers refusing to play by the rules are not permitted to injure American workers and companies.

We urge that the Commission make an affirmative preliminary determination in this proceeding and allow a full and comprehensive investigation of the allegations in the petitions.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator



Rob Portman
United States Senator