



**American  
Iron and Steel  
Institute**

**American Line  
Pipe Producers  
Association**



**Concrete  
Reinforcing  
Steel  
Institute**

**Iron Ore Alliance**  
An alliance between the United Steelworkers and U.S. Steel



**SSINA**  
Specialty Steel Industry  
of North America



July 17, 2017

Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Nita M. Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Lowey:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we urge the adoption of the Aderholt-Visclosky Buy America amendment to the FY18 Interior Appropriations bill currently before the House Appropriations Committee. The bipartisan amendment removes language in the underlying bill that would permit our taxpayer-funded water infrastructure to be constructed with foreign-melted iron and steel.

Under current law, water infrastructure projects funded with U.S. tax dollars through the EPA-administered CWSRF, DWSRF, and WIFIA programs are required to use American-made iron and steel. Following Congress' desire for these investments to promote capital investment and jobs here in America, the EPA administers the law to require that "all manufacturing processes" take place domestically. This ensures that every critical stage of the steelmaking process occurs in the United States and, as a result, enables the benefits of the procurement preference to be felt throughout the supply chain, including by domestic suppliers of critical raw materials. This "melted and poured" standard has been successfully applied since 1983 for highway, transit, water, and other federal assistance infrastructure projects.

Unfortunately, the underlying bill includes new language that would permit steel that is initially manufactured (melted and poured) abroad and then rolled and/or finished in the United States to be used in taxpayer-funded infrastructure projects. Even worse, the bill would permit end-use products to be assembled in the United States using components made entirely of foreign iron and steel. Without the Aderholt-Visclosky amendment, the underlying bill would bypass tens of thousands of American workers in the iron ore mines of Minnesota, Michigan and Alabama, the coal mines of Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Wyoming and West Virginia, and steel mills from coast to coast. Each direct steel job supports seven others throughout our economy.

It is important to note that the Energy and Commerce Committee is currently proceeding with legislation to reauthorize the DWSRF. The Aderholt-Visclosky amendment mirrors the Buy America provision included in that bill, as well as language enacted in 2014 that permanently codified the Buy America preference for the CWSRF and WIFIA programs. While the DWSRF reauthorization bill proceeds, it is vital that the Appropriations Committee consistently apply Buy America – as it has since FY14 – and ensure that these water projects continue to be constructed using American-made iron and steel.

We urge your support for the Aderholt-Visclosky amendment. Buy America is and should continue to be a preference for steel that is produced at every stage of the manufacturing process in the United States – not a preference for foreign-produced steel that is further rolled and/or finished here. This distinction has enormous implications for capital investment and jobs in the U.S. manufacturing sector.

Sincerely,

Alliance for American Manufacturing (AAM)  
American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)  
American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI)  
American Line Pipe Producers Association (ALPPA)  
Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute (CRSI)  
Iron Ore Alliance (IOA)  
Municipal Castings Association (MCA)  
Pennsylvania Steel Alliance (PSA)  
Specialty Steel Industry of North America (SSINA)  
Steel Manufacturers Association (SMA)  
Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO (TTD)  
United Steelworkers (USW)

cc: Members of the House Committee on Appropriations