

April 18, 2018

The Honorable Wilbur Ross  
Secretary of Commerce  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20230

Ambassador Robert E. Lighthizer  
Office of the United States Trade Representative  
600 17<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer and Secretary Ross,

We write to you today to voice our support for the continued imposition of broad relief pursuant to President Trump's determination in the Aluminum 232 investigation. The President's determination appropriately recognizes that aluminum is vital to the country's national security and that broad comprehensive relief from imports is critical to ensuring the country's idled aluminum smelters are allowed to restart.

The recent sanctions announced against Russian oligarchs and aluminum producers illustrates precisely why the 232 relief is necessary. The President's 232 determination recognized that we need adequate and reliable domestic supply for our national security. Reliance on foreign supply creates unnecessary vulnerabilities and can be unreliable in a crisis despite the best of intentions. Without broad comprehensive relief with limited narrow exemptions to ensure the full amount of U.S. capacity restarts, the President's national security goals will not be met.


Since the President signed the Presidential Proclamation on March 8, 2018, U.S. primary aluminum producers have begun the process of restarting their idled capacity, investing in new technology and generating thousands of new jobs. The same foreign and domestic voices that claimed the President should focus the relief on only China, despite the fact that there are many other countries operating with state-led policies and support that have contributed to the attacks on U.S. production, are now using the Russian sanctions as an excuse to undo the President's 232 relief. If the President listens to these organizations, these restarts, the thousands of jobs associated with them and the strengthening of our national security capabilities, may vanish as quickly as they began.


Because primary aluminum is a globally-traded commodity product, targeting relief on only one or two countries will not provide the industry the relief it needs to restart; instead it would simply ensure that the benefits flow not to U.S. workers and producers, but to our foreign competitors. Market analysts agree that if significant producers were completely exempted, as a pure commodity, virtually all of the aluminum produced in exempted countries will flow here duty free, making the tariff ineffective and thereby preventing U.S. producers from increasing


production to recapture lost market share. Non-U.S. producers in these markets are already indicating that they have plans to do just that.

As a result, for the aluminum 232 relief to be effective, imports must be subject to either the tariff or a quota regime. If all non-NAFTA countries that are currently exempted from relief do not agree to quotas by the April 30<sup>th</sup> deadline, duties must be imposed on May 1<sup>st</sup>. Indeed, the Korean Government's decision to accept the tariff rather than a quota demonstrates that this is a simple solution that should not be delayed. The President must structure the relief in a way that strengthens our national security and ensures that U.S. workers and producers benefit, not our foreign competitors. For these reasons, we ask that the President continue to maintain the 10 percent tariff and grant only limited exceptions through a quota.

Respectfully,

  
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Tom Conway  
Vice President, United Steel Workers

  
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Michael A. Bless  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Century Aluminum Company

  
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Robert Prusak  
Chief Executive Officer  
Magnitude 7 Metals