

Statement provided by the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce – an affiliate of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development

For the Hearing on Section 232 National Security Investigation on Steel

May 31, 2017

The Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce (GPCC) – an affiliate of the Allegheny Conference on Community Development, works to improve the economy and quality of life of the Pittsburgh region. To this end, GPCC works with our public, private, and civic leadership to ensure our key economic sectors, including advanced manufacturing, remain a positive asset to our region's and nation's future. Today, we write to offer our statement on steel dumping and its effect on our national security.

The Pittsburgh region and our nation was built on steel and, in recent years, our manufacturers have invested in America, spending billions of dollars to build state-of-the-art facilities that produce high quality steel for commercial and defense sectors. Steel and manufacturing remain a critical backbone of our economy and we ask that the Department of Commerce enforce fair trade to ensure a level playing field.

During your consideration of whether steel imports threaten U.S. national security, we respectfully submit that you should factor in areas beyond steel used specifically for military purposes. Indeed, while that is a critical use of domestic steel, the Pittsburgh region knows well that steel plays a vital role in a national security context by supporting infrastructure in the energy sector, power generation to provide for a secure and reliable electric grid, transportation, and many other important national needs. In today's world, a nation's economic security is directly tied to its overall sense of security.

Steel is unique in the diversity of the sectors within which it is utilized and deployed. Almost every U.S. citizen and business is impacted in some way by either a strong and robust domestic steel industry or a weakened one. An individual's ability to commute to work on our roads, over our bridges, or via a public transportation system is negatively impacted by a lack of available domestic steel. Similarly, the Pittsburgh region's business community is able to utilize low-cost domestic energy sources in part because of domestic steel that helps in the development and transport of such energy sources.

The United States was founded on principles of justice, equality and fairness and sustained by a transparent rules-based system of law. Our country has advanced an international system of commerce based on the same fairness and transparency. We must rely on our own government to ensure that the rules are respected and fairness and transparency prevail not only in the global marketplace but also in our home market.

Our companies have always thrived when the playing field is level and the rules are clear. Honest competition is at the heart of America and we look forward to competing in a fair system. A robust domestic steel sector is essential to our nation's long-term economic growth and to our national security. Pursuant to his authority under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act, the President should use his broad powers to support fair trade.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share our views on growing our manufacturing base and protecting America's national security.