

Mr. Brad Botwin,
Director, Industrial Studies
Office of Technology Evaluation, Bureau of Industry and Security
U.S. Department of Commerce

Dear Mr. Botwin,

Independent Pipe is a Distributer of steel pipe, servicing the Western United States.

Much of our supply comes from Asia, Canada, and Mexico for a number of reasons.

1) Many of the sizes and types that we use are not produced on the West Coast, and some are not produced anywhere in the U.S.

2) The cost of freight from the East Coast Steel mills is prohibitive.

3) Many Domestic mills have their own approved distributors and will not sell other companies.

4) The quality of some of the U.S. Manufacturers do not meet our customers specifications.

Our customers rely on a steady supply of pipe at competitive prices in order to stay in business. Any disruption in that could put our company

And our customers out of business. Higher steel cost will make some projects non economical. Jobs saved in the steel industry will be lost in the construction and manufacturing industries.

One example of potential supply problem is the following:

California has just come out of a major drought. Thousands of new water wells have been drilled in the last few years to get us through it. The increase in drilling

was fast and furious. It would not have been possible for the domestic pipe manufactures to meet the demand. That would have been a disaster for California Agriculture.

Stopping or limiting imports will be a disaster for The West Coast, I urge you to please NOT take any action.

Regards,

Bruce Haupt
President
Independent Pipe
Independent Pipe Email Signature
