

July 15, 2020

Mr. Michael Truitt
401 W. Texas, Suite 917
Midland, TX 79701

Dear Mr. Truitt:

Thank you for your correspondence regarding Maple Leaf Marketing Corporation's (MLM) requests for exclusion from the Section 232 national security actions on steel. I understand the importance of this matter to MLM and appreciate the opportunity to address it.

The Department of Commerce's review of all exclusion applications is conducted on a case-by-case basis in a fair and transparent manner. When an exclusion request receives an objection from a member of the domestic steel industry, the Department reviews that case to determine whether there is evidence of U.S. capacity to produce the requested product in a sufficient quality and quantity. After a final review of national security concerns salient to the case, the request is issued a final decision memo.

Your letter raises concerns regarding five exclusion requests for Oil Country Trade Goods (OCTG) filed by MLM in August 2019. As you state, all five exclusion requests received objection from Maverick Tube Corporation. Of these five requests, three have been granted, totaling 1,746 metric tons. The remaining two requests, totaling 573 metric tons, were denied due to the Department of Commerce's finding that there existed U.S. production capacity to produce the requested products in a sufficient quality and quantity.

The Department can provide information about the status of a request for exclusion from a tariff or quota imposed under Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962. However, we are unable to engage in any non-public communications, either oral or written, on the merits of a given exclusion request or series of requests. Any non-public communication to Department officials or employees regarding the merits will be considered an *ex parte* presentation, the contents of which will not be considered in the Department's review of the relevant exclusion request.

A fair and effective Section 232 exclusion request process is an important goal of the Department. Should you have further questions, please contact Anthony Foti, Performing the Delegated Duties of the Assistant Secretary for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, at (202) 482-3663.

Sincerely,

Matthew Borman