

U.S. International Trade Commission

Hot-Rolled Steel Flat Products from Australia, Brazil, Japan, Korea, the Netherlands, Russia, Turkey, and the United Kingdom, Inv. Nos. 701-TA-545-546 and 731-TA-1291-1297 (Review) and 731-TA-808 (Fourth Review)

Testimony of Roy Houseman, Legislative Director, United Steelworkers (USW)

Good morning Chairman Johanson, and Commissioners. On behalf of the United Steelworkers, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to talk about the importance of maintaining the antidumping and countervailing duty orders on hot-rolled steel to steelworkers across this country, their families, and the communities in which they live.

My name is Roy Houseman and I am the Legislative Director of the United Steelworkers, otherwise known as the USW. As you heard from President Conway during the hearing on corrosion resistant steel earlier this year, our basic steel members are part of the largest manufacturing union in North America, which supplies almost every sector of the economy, and produces a wide array of products from paper to chemicals to aluminum to steel.

In my decade-plus career advocating on behalf of our members, I have personally seen the positive impact that AD/CVD duties have had on American

steel workers and their communities. In 2016 USW testified to the dire situation faced by the steel industry and asked that you remedy that situation with AD/CVD orders on hot-rolled steel. Imports were flooding the market, the U.S. industry struggled to compete, and mill workers were losing their jobs. Since that time, the industry has started to recover. U.S. steel producers began investing in manufacturing hot-rolled steel and jobs started coming back.

Because of the relief from unfairly traded imports provided by these orders, members of our union negotiated new collective bargaining agreements with the major steel companies in 2018 that addressed previous wage freezes by increasing compensation. The 2018 agreements maintained the union's high-quality, affordable health care coverage, strengthened retirement benefits, and we received commitments from our employers to invest in their production facilities. That contract just expired, and we are pleased with our agreement with Cleveland Cliffs, which continues that commitment to reinvest in the USW-represented facilities over the next 4 years by offering a strong new contract to our members. We continue to negotiate in good faith with U. S. Steel and look forward to hopefully concluding a new contract soon.

With new contracts that maintain good pay and strong healthcare, USW workers will continue to produce this nation's next generation of steel products day in and day out. As the industry increases its investments and decarbonization

efforts, new steel working jobs are coming online to carry the industry forward into an even greener future. Right now, the steel that is mined, melted, poured, and rolled in the United States is among the cleanest in the world. Our workers are on the frontlines developing new technologies and processes to move the industry forward. These developments, in the hot-rolled segment are critical to preserve the American steel supply chain.

But these new contracts and new investments face an uncertain future as imports continue to enter the U.S. market at a time when demand for hot-rolled steel is softening and raw material prices are rising. These market dynamics have the potential to reverse the strides we have made over the last several years with trade protection in place. Simply, the Union sees the threat of injury remaining, and our members will be some of the first to experience the recurrence of injury if duties are removed prematurely. We've seen that with the orders in place, mills are operating, new investments are made, workers receive better wages, and companies innovate. The continuation of the AD/CVD orders on hot-rolled steel is critical for our workers and communities to thrive.


On behalf of the ninety thousand workers employed in the domestic steel industry nationwide, we thank you for issuing these orders in 2016 and with your vote for continuation, we know that we'll make the next chapter for American-made steel a success story. Thank you, and I look forward to answering any

questions you may have.

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I, Roy Houseman, certify under penalty of perjury, including, but not limited to 18 U.S.C. § 1001, that the information contained in this declaration is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Date: September 14, 2022

Signed:  _____
Roy Houseman