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**SSINA AND CCC COUNSEL DAVID A HARTQUIST TO TESTIFY BEFORE USTR ON CHINA'S COMPLIANCE WITH WTO COMMITMENTS**

(Washington, DC, October 1, 2008) – On Thursday, October 2, David A. Hartquist, counsel to the Specialty Steel Industry of North America (SSINA) and the China Currency Coalition (CCC), will testify before the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) that China is in violation of its commitments to the World Trade Organization (WTO) on subsidies.

When China formally joined the WTO in 2001, the country made a series of commitments under the WTO's covered agreements and in China's Protocol of Accession to the WTO. Among its obligations to the WTO, China agreed to end certain government subsidies to companies in China, stating that it would eliminate, by the time of its accession to the WTO, all subsidy programs falling within the scope of Article 3 of the WTO's Agreement on Subsidies and Countervailing Measures. Article 3 prohibits subsidies that are contingent in law or in fact upon export performance and also prohibits subsidies that are contingent upon the use of domestic over imported goods.

According to Mr. Hartquist, China has not kept this promise or honored its international legal obligations in this regard. “Under a deliberate plan to build a world-class stainless steel industry in China, the Chinese government has given top priority to encouraging exports of semi-fabricated and downstream stainless steel products and to reducing China's reliance on imports of these products for its domestic market,” Hartquist explains. “By implementing this trade-distorting industrial policy at virtually every level of government, China has relied and continues to rely, upon various measures that include not only subsidies, but also import and export restrictions and other discriminatory regulations, all of which raise concerns under the WTO's agreements.”

On July 31, USTR announced that it would seek public comments and would hold a hearing in Washington, DC to obtain information to be used in preparation of its annual report on China's compliance with its WTO accession obligations. USTR has sought comments and testimony on China's commitments with respect to trading rights, import regulation, export regulation, internal policies affecting trade, intellectual property rights, services, and rule of law issues, among other WTO commitments.

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David A. Hartquist is Chairman of the International Trade and Customs practice of Kelley Drye & Warren's Washington DC office.

The hearing is scheduled to begin at 10am in Room 1, 1724 F Street, NW, Washington, DC 20508 on Thursday, October 2. If necessary, the hearing will continue on the next day. Copies of Mr. Hartquist's testimony will be available on the SSINA and CCC websites, [www.ssina.com](http://www.ssina.com) and [www.chinacurrencycoalition.com](http://www.chinacurrencycoalition.com).

### **About Specialty Steel Industry of North America**

Specialty Steel Industry of North America (SSINA) is a Washington, DC-based trade association representing virtually all continental specialty metals producers, which include high technology, high value stainless and other specialty alloy products.

SSINA member companies include: AK Steel Corporation, West Chester, OH; ATI Allegheny Ludlum, Pittsburgh, PA and ATI Allvac, Monroe, NC (both Allegheny Technologies companies); Carpenter Technology Corporation, Reading, PA; Crucible Specialty Metals, Syracuse, NY; Electralloy, Oil City, PA; Haynes International Inc., Kokomo, IN; ThyssenKrupp Mexinox SA de CV, San Luis Potosí, S.L.P., Mexico; North American Stainless, Ghent, KY; Outokumpu Stainless, Inc., Schaumburg, IL; ThyssenKrupp VDM USA, Inc., Florham Park, NJ; Latrobe Specialty Steel Company, Latrobe, PA; Universal Stainless and Alloy Products, Bridgeville, PA; and Valbruna Slater Stainless Inc., Fort Wayne, IN.

### **About the China Currency Coalition**

The China Currency Coalition is an alliance of industry, agriculture, services, and worker organizations whose mission is to support U.S. manufacturing and production by seeking an end to Chinese currency undervaluation.