



July 27, 2020

The Honorable Jim McGovern  
Chairman, House Rules Committee  
408 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole  
Ranking Member, House Rules Committee  
2207 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Support for Bost-Lamb-Crawford Amendment to Ensure Sufficient Resources to Combat Illegal Foreign Trade Practices (Amendment #76 to H.R. 7617)

Dear Chairman McGovern and Ranking Member Cole,

On behalf of a broad coalition of U.S. manufacturers and workers in communities across the country, we write in strong support of a bipartisan amendment submitted by Representatives Bost, Lamb, and Crawford to Division B (Commerce, Justice, Science appropriations for Fiscal Year 2021) of H.R. 7617 currently pending before the Rules Committee. The Bost-Lamb-Crawford amendment (amendment #76) would help ensure adequate funding for critical trade law enforcement and compliance efforts within the Department of Commerce’s International Trade Administration (ITA). As representatives of industries that have been harmed by unfair trade practices including illegal dumping and subsidization of imports, we strongly urge the Rules Committee to allow a vote on this important amendment.

As background, the ITA’s Office of Enforcement and Compliance (E&C) administers the U.S. antidumping and countervailing duty (AD/CVD) trade laws as well as circumvention of trade remedy cases. These laws play a critical role in ensuring fair trade and supporting domestic manufacturing and U.S. workers, especially as we continue to respond to the economic effects of the COVID-19 crisis. However, the ability of E&C to carry out its mission is seriously compromised given the exponential increase in trade cases in recent years. Specifically, the number of E&C AD/CVD enforcement actions has surged by over 60 percent in the last five years, while staffing has lagged significantly.

Congress has long recognized the important role of the Office of Enforcement and Compliance in ensuring that U.S. companies and workers affected by unfair trade receive remedies that will provide relief from trade distorting practices. Effective enforcement of our trade laws not only ensures the stability and growth of U.S. manufacturing and jobs, but also brings in revenue from duties collected to counterbalance the subsidies that foreign governments provide to their companies and the dumping of products into the U.S. market. On behalf of the undersigned organizations, representing domestic

manufacturers and workers across the nation, we thank you for your consideration of this important amendment and strongly support its ultimate inclusion in H.R. 7617.

Sincerely,

Alliance for American Manufacturing

American Iron and Steel Institute

Committee on Pipe and Tube Imports

Municipal Castings Association

Specialty Steel Industry of North America

Steel Manufacturers Association

United Steelworkers