



Leo W. Gerard
International President

September 21, 2006

VIA FAX AND REGULAR MAIL

The Honorable Carlos M. Gutierrez
Secretary
Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to you on behalf of the 850,000 members of the United Steelworkers union (USW) to request that a representative of the USW be invited to participate in the steel dialogue between the United States and China.

As was recently noted in the press, steel imports from China through July were up 76% over the same period a year ago. China continues to increase its steelmaking capacity despite worldwide overcapacity. The United States cannot afford to continue to face the unfair and predatory practices of the Chinese. Already production and employment here in the U.S. has gone through major and painful downsizing because of the steel crisis. It is vital for us to ensure that we maintain and increase capacity here in America to meet our nation's needs and protect our national and economic security.

Certainly, no stakeholder has more important interests and deserves to participate in the steel dialogue than the USW. Working with the Administration, we participated in the steel dialogue through the OECD. We recognize the competing interests that exist in the world steel industry and want to assist you and the Administration in ensuring that American interests are effectively advanced.

Please let me know how the USW can participate in these vital discussions.

Sincerely,

Leo W. Gerard
International President

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