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COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAI

2004 OCT -6 PM 4:00

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4401

September 27, 2004

The Honorable Donald L. Evans
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Re: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Regarding the Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis System

Dear Secretary Evans:

I write in response to the August 25, 2004 Federal Register Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (69 Fed. Reg. 52,211), seeking suggestions on whether to extend and improve the Steel Import Monitoring and Analysis System ("SIMA"). Since its inception, SIMA has proven vital to the continued success of the domestic steel industry. I urge the Department to fulfill its commitment to American workers and companies by making the program permanent, while expanding the range of products covered to provide the most effective monitoring.

The steel industry is a vital part of the domestic manufacturing sector and our economy as a whole. SIMA is an invaluable tool for the industry, enabling it to quickly react to changing market conditions while ensuring the detection of possible unfair trading practices or import surges.

I strongly support the continuation and expansion of SIMA. Please do not hesitate to contact my office with any questions regarding this issue.

Sincerely yours,

Rob Bishop
Member of Congress