



HR1138

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Steel is the backbone of the modern economy, and
3 it contributes to every level of daily life; it supports our
4 bridges, takes our buildings to new heights, and can be found
5 in the everyday appliances in our homes; Illinois' strong
6 manufacturing sector relies extensively on the metal; and

7 WHEREAS, The steel industry and manufacturing have been
8 significantly undermined by low price steel imports from
9 foreign nations; companies in places like China, South Korea,
10 India, the Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, Turkey, Taiwan, and
11 Saudi Arabia are selling their products in the United States at
12 predatory prices; some estimates state that certain Chinese
13 steel firms retail their products in the United States at 75%
14 of the domestic cost of production; a South Korean firm
15 recently retailed its products even lower at 48% of the
16 domestic cost of production; this unfair trade practice puts
17 American mills, and the mines that feed them, at risk; and

18 WHEREAS, The economic consequences of steel dumping have
19 begun and will have a lasting detrimental impact on the
20 Illinois economy and the entire nation; across the Midwest,
21 thousands of steelworkers have already been laid off in recent
22 years, and as mills continue to operate well below their
23 operational capacity, more steelworkers and miners are at risk;

1 as the percentage of foreign steel used in the United States
2 increases, the impacts on American manufacturing will only
3 increase; this could lead to the erosion of enterprises that
4 are critical to our economy and national defense; and

5 WHEREAS, The dumping of foreign steel into the United
6 States is a violation of international trade agreements and
7 must be halted; Article VI of the General Agreement on Tariffs
8 and Trade 1994 states that products from another country shall
9 not be introduced into the commerce of another country at a
10 value less than the product's normal price in the destination
11 country; the Department of Commerce has used the provisions of
12 this article to investigate and take anti-dumping measures
13 against nations in the past; however, this process is slow;
14 while nations and companies are being identified,
15 investigated, and punished, American workers are being laid
16 off; action must be taken to more aggressively identify those
17 violating international trade agreements and punish them
18 accordingly; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
20 NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we
21 urge President Barack Obama and the United States Congress to
22 take action to halt the illegal dumping of foreign steel into
23 the U.S. market; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
2 delivered to President Barack Obama, United States Senate
3 Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Speaker of the United States
4 House of Representatives Paul Ryan, and the members of the
5 Illinois Congressional Delegation.