



HR0372

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The American steel industry is vital to this country's manufacturing base, strategic infrastructure, and national security; and

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WHEREAS, The steel industry and manufacturing in general has been significantly undermined by artificially low-price steel imports from foreign nations like China, that are selling their products in the United States at predatory prices; and

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WHEREAS, Foreign steel overproduction and dumping into the U.S. economy puts American businesses and jobs in trouble, and puts our overall economy at risk; and

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WHEREAS, The United States trade deficit with China in 2016 was more than \$347 billion; and

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WHEREAS, The Chicago Transit Authority recently awarded a contract order to build over 800 rail cars, totaling \$1.3 billion; reportedly, the lowest bid was to China Railroad Rolling Stock Corp. (CRRC), a company with documented quality deficiencies in projects in Boston, Massachusetts and Singapore; and

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WHEREAS, Across the Midwest and throughout the country,

1 thousands of steelworkers have been laid off in recent years,
2 and as mills continue to operate well below their operational
3 capacity due to Chinese steel dumping and predatory bids on
4 public contracts, more steelworkers and miners are at risk of
5 losing their jobs; and

6 WHEREAS, There are 340,000 less manufacturing workers in
7 Illinois than there were just 20 years ago; and

8 WHEREAS, Manufacturing lost 45,000 jobs nationwide in
9 2016, compared to more than two million gained in the entire
10 economy; and

11 WHEREAS, These same workers are the taxpayers that provide
12 the revenue needed to fund our nation's crumbling
13 infrastructure, and their tax dollars should be spent on
14 maximizing the creation of American manufacturing jobs,
15 building American infrastructure, and restoring the economic
16 vitality of our communities; and

17 WHEREAS, The decision to use taxpayer dollars to support
18 Chinese-made manufacturers that are undercutting the American
19 steel industry by illegal steel dumping practices, along with
20 reports of flawed products that could potentially lead to
21 dangerous accidents, is detrimental to the American economy,
22 infrastructure, and national security; and

1 WHEREAS, A strong "buy American" domestic procurement
2 preference for publicly funded infrastructure projects is
3 vital to the health of the domestic steel industry, would help
4 create manufacturing jobs and build American infrastructure,
5 and would prevent future unfair competition from companies like
6 CRRC; and

7 WHEREAS, Using Illinois taxpayer dollars on
8 domestically-produced iron and steel and other
9 American-manufactured products in our infrastructure projects
10 will help struggling American families, strengthen our middle
11 class, support the American manufacturing base, and stabilize
12 our greater economy; and

13 WHEREAS, Any infrastructure project built with Illinois
14 taxpayer dollars should - to every extent possible - include a
15 preference by the State of Illinois to buy iron and steel that
16 is produced in the United States, thus employing the very
17 workers that pay the taxes for American infrastructure
18 projects; therefore, be it

19 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE
20 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that the
21 State of Illinois should work to maximize the creation of
22 American jobs and to stimulate economic growth and opportunity

1 by spending Illinois taxpayer dollars on iron and steel that
2 creates jobs and helps keep Americans employed; and be it
3 further

4 RESOLVED, That it should be the policy of the State of
5 Illinois and its localities, whenever and wherever possible, to
6 use taxpayer dollars to purchase iron and steel that is
7 produced in the United States, meaning that all manufacturing
8 processes, from the initial melting stage through the
9 application of coatings, occurs in the United States.