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Scope: Trending Imports
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August 19, 2014

Paul Piquado
Assistant Secretary for Enforcement & Compliance
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20230-0001

Dear Assistant Secretary Piquado:

I write on behalf of constituents at Texas' Western Extrusions Corporation, an aluminum extruder, which employs approximately 700 people, over 100 of whom reside in my Congressional District. These constituents play a vital economic role in the community and in our nation's economy. I am deeply concerned by recent reports of unfair trade practices from China that are once again threatening Texas jobs. I am confident that these practices will be satisfactorily addressed by the Department of Commerce.

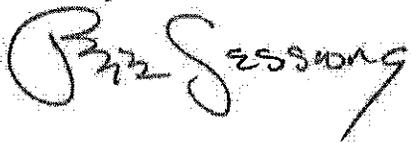
In April 2011, the Department of Commerce appropriately concluded that Chinese producers were selling their aluminum extrusions in the U.S. market at dumping margins of up to 33 percent and subsidy margins of up to 10 percent. Shortly thereafter, the U.S. International Trade Commission correctly determined that the U.S. industry and its workers were being injured by this unfair trade. As a result, in May 2011, the Department of Commerce granted the industry much needed trade relief.

My constituents now tell me that the trade relief that they fought so hard to earn is in jeopardy. I have been informed that Chinese exporters are currently evading the aluminum extrusion orders by shipping 5000-series aluminum alloy extrusions to the U.S. market at dumped and subsidized prices. I further have been informed that these products are really 6000-series alloy aluminum extrusions, which are covered under the orders. However, these aluminum extrusions are being manipulated by Chinese producers in order to avoid the payment of duties.

As the agency is aware, dumped and subsidized aluminum extrusions from China almost decimated the U.S. aluminum extrusions industry only a few years back. The Department of Commerce has the opportunity to ensure that this does not happen again. Specifically, I understand that the agency is currently conducting two scope inquiries to determine whether 5000-series products fall within the scope of the antidumping and countervailing duty orders on aluminum extrusions from China. These rulings cannot come soon enough, as U.S. producers and workers have already started feeling the adverse effects of these unfairly traded imports.

Once the Department of Commerce carefully considers all of the evidence on the record in this proceeding, I am confident that it will make the correct scope determination and require that Chinese aluminum extrusions producers fully comply with the orders on aluminum extrusions. The continued viability of this industry requires nothing less than the vigorous enforcement of these orders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pete Sessions". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Pete Sessions
Member of Congress

PS/kh