

United States Senate

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ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Honorable Irving A. Williamson
Chairman
U.S. International Trade Commission
500 E Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20436

Re: *Silicomanganese from Brazil, China, and Ukraine*
Inv. Nos. 731-TA-671-673 (Third Review)

Dear Chairman Williamson:

I write to support the continuation of the antidumping duty orders on silicomanganese imports from Brazil, China, and Ukraine. Maintaining these orders is necessary to prevent a surge of unfairly-priced imports from these countries from having an adverse impact on the citizens and economy of West Virginia.

As you know, silicomanganese is a ferroalloy that is used as a deoxidizer and an alloying element in steel production. This domestic industry is especially susceptible to unfair price competition because silicomanganese is a commodity product, and as such, purchasing decisions rest purely on price.

One of the domestic producers of silicomanganese, Felman Productions Inc., is located in Letart, West Virginia. Felman Productions began operations in 2006, and immediately played a critical role in bolstering my state's economy. Additionally, Felman Productions employs more than 250 men and women, and in 2011, accounted for about 35 percent of all manufacturing workers within the county. Without the discipline imposed on dumped imports from Brazil, China, and Ukraine by these orders, Felman Productions may have never even opened its production facility.

The evidence before you shows that absent the orders, domestic silicomanganese producers like Felman Productions will likely experience intense unfair competition from Brazil, China, and Ukraine in the immediate future. Indeed, the Commission's Public Prehearing Staff Report indicates that Brazil, China, and Ukraine have substantial excess capacity. As our country recovers from the 2008-2009 recession, a surge of unfairly low-priced silicomanganese imports from Brazil, China, and Ukraine will be very problematic for my state's economy.

Considering the challenges that the current economic conditions present to companies like Felman Productions and their employees, permitting these foreign producers to resume dumping their silicomanganese at low prices will only further aggravate our economic environment.

The continuation of these orders will help defend Felman Productions and other domestic silicomanganese manufacturers against unfair trade. Hundreds of well-paying jobs will also remain secure, contributing to more robust growth in West Virginia. I therefore urge you to maintain the existing antidumping order on silicomanganese from Brazil, China, and Ukraine.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Joe Manchin, III". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "M".

Joe Manchin, III
U.S. Senator