



**American
Iron and Steel
Institute**

Steelgram

Immediate Attention Requested

April 14, 2026

**To: Members of the U.S. Senate Republican Caucus
Senate Republican staff assigned to steel, manufacturing and/or trade issues**

**Sign Sen. Blackburn's Letter to Secretary Bessent on Chinese Vehicles
in Advance of President Trump's Meeting the Chinese President Xi**

Background: Steel is foundational to American economic capability and capacity, and the American steel industry leads the world in clean and energy-efficient steel production. For far too long, American steelmakers have been forced to compete with unfairly subsidized foreign-made steel – much of it produced by non-market actors like China. In fact, recent studies have shown that Chinese steelmakers receive 15 times the level of subsidies than do their competitors in market-based economies.

Chinese vehicles are also highly subsidized and just like in the steel sector, the Chinese government has been clear about its goal to expand their automotive footprint across the globe through any means necessary. Granting Chinese automotive companies the ability to manufacture and sell vehicles and batteries in the U.S. would pose a serious threat to the U.S. auto industry and its supply chain, including steel producers.

Situation: Recognizing the threat posed by Chinese vehicles and automotive batteries, as well as the opportunity arising from President Trump's mid-May meeting with his Chinese counterpart, Senator Blackburn is sending a letter to Treasury Secretary Bessent urging the Trump Administration "to reject any attempts by the PRC to establish vehicle and battery manufacturing facilities in the United States."

The letter further concludes by noting that "[w]e appreciate the Administration's commitment to ensuring the U.S. remains the global leader in innovation and manufacturing, and we look forward to working with President Trump and the Treasury Department to combat unfair Chinese trade practices, strengthen domestic supply chains, and usher in the Golden Age of American Manufacturing."

Request: Please sign Sen. Blackburn's letter to Sec. Bessent. The draft letter is attached and the deadline for signing is Thursday, April 16th. If you have questions, do not hesitate to reach out to Ian Pigg (Ian_Pigg@blackburn.senate.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin M. Dempsey".

Kevin M. Dempsey
President and CEO