



**American
Iron and Steel
Institute**

Steelgram

Immediate Attention Requested

April 17, 2026

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

COSPONSOR THE LEVELING THE PLAYING FIELD 2.0 ACT (S. 691)

Background: The American steel industry continues to face serious threats from unfairly traded imports from a variety of countries. Trade-distorting economic policies by China and other countries have contributed to massive global overcapacity in steel, totaling 604 million metric tons (mmt) globally last year, up from the prior year's total of 574 mmt. Much of this excess capacity is being produced in non-market oriented countries.

According to the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), China's steel exports reached a record high in 2025 – surpassing the combined exports of the rest of Asia. Furthermore, its level of state subsidies also increased drastically. China's increased production and exports come at a time when its domestic consumption of steel has decreased. The result is that China's trade-distorting practices, such as circumvention and dumping, are a critical tool for selling its excess steel at below market prices.

Through its "Belt and Road Initiative," the Chinese government is also subsidizing its steel producers as they build significant additional export-oriented steelmaking capacity outside of China – particularly in Southeast Asian countries like Vietnam and Indonesia. From 2010 to 2020, crude steel capacity in the Southeast Asian region doubled and significant additional capacity expansion is underway – over 80 percent of which is the result of Chinese cross-border investments. China's subsidization of its companies to undersell steel producers throughout the world, leading to a race to the bottom.

U.S. trade remedy laws are a key tool by which the steel industry and other American manufacturers can mitigate the harm from unfairly traded imports and help prevent plants from being idled and workers from losing their jobs. Unfortunately, U.S. trade laws must be updated as foreign bad actors constantly pursue new ways to illegally ship their goods into the United States.

Situation: Senators Todd Young (R-IN) and Tina Smith (D-MN) are leading the Leveling the Playing Field 2.0 Act (S. 691) (LTPF 2.0), which aims to update and strengthen U.S. trade laws giving the federal government the tools necessary to counter unfair foreign competition. Specifically, this legislation includes the three provisions which will help strengthen U.S. trade laws and combat unfair trade practices by other countries:

Cross-border Subsidies – Under this legislation, the Commerce Department (Commerce) would be given express authority to apply the countervailing duty law to products being subsidized by foreign governments outside of their borders.

Particular Market Situation – Under current law, Commerce may determine that there is a “particular market situation” when the reported cost of materials and fabrication do not accurately reflect the cost of production. In such cases, Commerce can use another calculation methodology to establish the cost of production effectively countering the benefits of subsidies that artificially lower the price of foreign-made goods.

Circumvention Inquiry Timelines – Currently, there are no statutory deadlines for Commerce’s circumvention inquiries, which means investigations can drag on for years denying relief for domestic manufacturers. Long, drawn out investigations only benefit trade cheats who can continue selling their goods while American manufacturers struggle to maintain operations. LTPF 2.0 would establish statutory deadlines for these inquiries as follows:

- Circumvention inquiries must be initiated no later than 45 days after the inquiry request is made.
- Preliminary determinations will be made no later than 150 days after the circumvention inquiry is initiated.
- Final Determinations will be made no later than 150 days after issuing a preliminary determination.

Cosponsors (13R, 9D): *Sens. Young, Smith, Baldwin, Banks, Britt, Capito, Cotton, Fetterman, Gallego, Graham, Gillibrand, Hyde-Smith, Justice, Klobuchar, McCormick, Moreno, Schmitt, Shaheen, Slotkin, Tuberville, Wicker, and Warren. (Italics indicate original cosponsor).*

Request: Cosponsor S.691, the Leveling the Playing Field 2.0 Act and help to strengthen U.S. trade laws and defend American workers and businesses against unfair trade practices. To cosponsor this legislation please contact Burke Miller (burke_miller@young.senate.gov) in Senator Young’s office or Omair Taher (omair_taher@smith.senate.gov) in Senator Tina Smith’s office.

Sincerely,



Kevin M. Dempsey
President and CEO