



**American
Iron and Steel
Institute**

Steelgram

Immediate Attention Requested

June 29, 2026

**To: Members of the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee
Committee members' staff assigned to steel and/or energy issues**

Ensure the Ratepayer Protection Act (H.R. 9340) does not negatively impact American manufacturers, including steel producers.

Background: The American steel industry is growing. Steel imports are down and domestic capacity utilization is increasing. The result is that steelmakers are investing in existing facilities and opening new productive capacity. This is an American success story and the House Energy and Commerce Committee and its members deserve credit for helping spur our nation's manufacturing revival. However, the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI) is deeply concerned that, as drafted the proposed Ratepayer Protection Act (H.R. 9340) would undermine this progress by imposing new, unanticipated electricity costs and regulatory uncertainty on American steelmakers.

Situation: At the Energy Subcommittee's June 23rd markup, it was clear that members were responding to constituent concerns about rising electricity demand and costs. Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle spoke about the need to protect ratepayers and identified data centers as the source of the problems facing their constituents. Notably, steel and other manufacturers were not mentioned at the markup, yet H.R. 9340 treats the manufacturing sector as part of the problem. In siting new facilities, steelmakers work with local communities and utilities and know how to enhance grid reliability during times of systemic stress. Unfortunately, the Ratepayer Protection Act would treat steelmakers the same as data centers, creating cost and regulatory uncertainty for American steelmakers. It could impose unexpected, upfront costs that will hinder manufacturing competitiveness and limit future job creating investments.

Request: For decades, American steelmakers have worked with the communities where we operate to ensure electricity rate stability and grid reliability. While the identified focus of H.R. 9340 is on the challenges related to computational large-load electricity users, it would also negatively impact domestic manufacturing operations. The Committee should not advance the Ratepayer Protection Act as currently drafted. Instead, it should amend the legislation to ensure that it does not result in new costs and regulatory burdens on American steel manufacturing facilities.

Sincerely,

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

Kevin M. Dempsey
President and CEO