September 28, 2026

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20230

The Honorable Jamieson Greer
Ambassador
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Ambassador Greer and Secretary Lutnick,

The undersigned organizations, who represent the vast majority of domestic steel production, appreciate the Administration's steadfast commitment to revitalizing the American steel industry. The Section 232 steel tariffs have provided the certainty domestic steelmakers need to make historic investments in the United States. Today, steelmakers have announced or are undertaking $47 billion in projects, supporting thousands of American jobs.

The steel tariffs are working. That is why we are writing to express serious concern about a sharp and unexpected surge in steel imports from South Korea, despite the strong tariff measures the Administration has put in place.

Since the Administration strengthened the Section 232 steel tariffs last year, steel imports from much of the world have declined significantly. Imports from South Korea, however, have surged. For example, in 2026, South Korean shipments of long products and pipe and tube products have increased dramatically, even though they are subject to the same 50 percent Section 232 tariff applied to steel imports from most other countries.

The increase in long products is particularly striking. South Korean long product imports, including rebar, reached a record 145,300 tons in July 2026, compared with just 36,400 tons in July 2025 and 22,100 tons in July 2024.[1] Given the strength of the existing tariff measures, the scale and speed of this increase warrant immediate scrutiny.

Pipe and tube imports show a similarly concerning pattern. South Korean pipe and tube shipments reached 160,300 tons in July 2026 alone.[2] At that pace, South Korea would be on track to ship more than one million tons annually. This surge confirms what the market has long known: South Korea's pipe industry is built on massive excess capacity and is overwhelmingly dependent on the U.S. market. The United States is its primary, and, for key products, nearly exclusive, export destination because South Korea lacks a meaningful domestic market capable of absorbing its oil country tubular goods (OCTG) and line pipe production if access to the U.S. market were curtailed.

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[1] U.S. Steel Import Monitor available at https://www.trade.gov/data-visualization/us-steel-import-monitor data accessed September 17, 2026.
[2] Id.

Flat products have also increased at an alarming rate. In galvalume, which is classified as "carbon and alloy, all other metallic products", South Korea has exported over 50,000 tons in July and August and are at double their quota levels. Hot dipped galvanized sheet is at 20 percent above quota levels and hot rolled plate in coils at 50 percent above quota levels.

In light of these surges, we urge the Administration to take immediate action to strengthen the Section 232 measures with respect to steel imports from South Korea, including implementation of a tariff rate quota with a minimum 50 percent in-quota tariff as well as a heightened tariff for any import volume in excess of the quota. Any further delay in implementing such measures will allow imports from South Korea to continue to surge, at the direct expense of the domestic steel industry.

In addition, we respectfully request that the Office of the United States Trade Representative, the Department of Commerce and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection investigate the underlying causes of this import surge and use all appropriate trade enforcement tools to address any unfair or market-distorting trade practices that are identified.

The undersigned commend USTR and Commerce for their continued commitment to vigorous enforcement of U.S. trade and national security laws. Strong enforcement is essential to ensuring that the Administration's steel policies deliver their intended benefits for American steelmakers, workers, and communities.

We urge prompt attention to this matter and stand ready to provide any additional information that may assist your review.

Thank you for your consideration.

Steel Manufacturers Association
American Iron and Steel Institute
Committee on Pipe and Tube Imports
United States OCTG Manufacturers Association
American Line Pipe Producers Association
American Institute of Steel Construction
Alliance for American Manufacturing
United Steelworkers