

ALLIANCE FOR
american
manufacturing



American
Iron and Steel
Institute



STEEL MANUFACTURERS
ASSOCIATION



May 21, 2021

Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC

Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC

Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Schumer, and Leaders McConnell and McCarthy:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, which represent the overwhelming majority of domestic iron and steel producers and their workers, as well as associations representing fabrication and manufacturing of iron and steel products, we write to express our collective support for addressing America's growing infrastructure needs and for efforts to maximize the economic impact of these investments through strong Buy America policies.

As our country seeks to recover from the economic shock resulting from the coronavirus pandemic, making a long-term and robust infrastructure investment will not only respond to the urgent transportation system needs that are well known, but it also will create high paying jobs allowing businesses and families to recover. A comprehensive strategy for new infrastructure investments is critical to a well-functioning economy and our national competitiveness. America's manufacturers and their workers stand to benefit from both a more efficient network to move goods to market and the increased demand generated for domestically produced iron, steel, and manufactured goods. For decades, American workers have produced these products that comprise the backbone of our country's public works infrastructure.

As the House and Senate consider infrastructure investments covering surface transportation, water systems, school construction, housing, broadband, and other critical infrastructure, we urge that you continue to support efforts to strengthen Buy America policies and guard against any efforts to weaken them. The American iron and steel industries and their workers strongly oppose efforts to weaken Buy America by allowing imported iron and steel that is finished in the United States to be used in taxpayer-funded infrastructure projects. Such an unwarranted change would encourage the outsourcing of the major elements of the steelmaking supply chain that account for a majority of the capital investment and employment. Buy America is and should continue to be a preference for steel that is *produced* in the United States – not a preference for foreign-produced steel that is merely *finished* here. Similarly, mill steel should subsequently be fabricated by American workers. These distinctions have enormous

implications for capital investment, jobs in the U.S. manufacturing sector, and efforts to reduce emissions and increase energy efficiency. Put simply, steel is “made” here only if it is “melted” here.

Congress can further strengthen Buy America by closing loopholes that historically have allowed far too many taxpayer dollars to flow to foreign factories, bypassing American workers. And by broadening the application of our Buy America policies to cover all federally assisted and direct federal infrastructure spending, as well as construction materials beyond iron and steel, Congress can ensure the benefits of Buy America are felt throughout our infrastructure supply chains. These commonsense improvements will keep more American taxpayer dollars here at home, further bolstering domestic supply chains and helping to revitalize the U.S. manufacturing base to the benefit of workers and communities across the country.

Strong Buy America laws maximize the return on the nation’s investment in our infrastructure. But, without them, countries like China would have unfettered access to the hard-earned tax dollars that are intended to provide a much-needed boost to our economy. Together, as the iron and steel backbone of our nation’s infrastructure, we stand ready to work with you to strengthen our nation’s Buy America laws, create manufacturing jobs, and rebuild America.

Sincerely,

Alliance for American Manufacturing
American Foundry Society
American Institute of Steel Construction
American Iron and Steel Institute
American Line Pipe Producers Association
Municipal Castings Association
National Steel Bridge Alliance
Steel Manufacturers Association
United Steelworkers

Cc: Members of the United States Senate and U.S. House of Representatives