

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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DEMOCRATIC STEERING AND POLICY



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March 11, 2017

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

I am writing on behalf of the more than 700 idled U.S. Steel workers in Lorain, Ohio and the families of those who have just been notified that as of June 8, 2017, they will permanently lose their jobs at the company's Tubular Operations' Number 6 Quench and Temper Mill on East 28th Street in Lorain Ohio. Prior to this weekend's announcement, a nearby Republic Engineered Products steel plant was also shuttered, despite a recent installation of a new arc furnace for modernization, causing a job loss of more than 400 workers. In a town that once employed 12,000 hard working men and women in the steel industry, we have seen hundreds more of the remaining steel jobs disappear in the last two years. For many decades, Lorain, Ohio has been one of America's premier steel towns. Its dear people and this stalwart town have been battered by the continuing job washout in steel due to unfair trade practices and closed markets abroad, particularly China and Russia. Further, a more recent market challenge has impacted this community as swings in the natural gas market caused unsteady demand for tubular product even as dumped tubular product from foreign suppliers flooded into the U.S.

Respectfully, I would recommend the immediate assistance of your Administration in every way possible to avoid permanent closure of these operations. We invite you to visit Lorain very soon, if that is possible, to assess the dire situation and evaluate alternatives to delay this decision. The involvement of your economic team to meet with company and labor representatives of U.S. and Republic Steel as well as local and state officials -- in Washington, D.C. or Lorain—could assist us as we seek an alternative pathway forward so Lorain's historic steel-making capacity may be secured to meet today's market realities. Your Administration's attention to developing an economic reinvestment strategy for Lorain itself and its impacted workforce could offer more hope than the bitter past has delivered here.

As a career-long member of the House Steel Caucus, I will do all I can to assist your Administration in securing the stabilization of the U.S. steel industry at this difficult time for domestic steel making in Lorain and elsewhere, and work toward a reinvestment and modernization strategy for the sake of Lorain and our nation.

Thank you for your review of this urgent request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marcy Kaptur".

MARCY KAPTUR
U.S. Representative

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