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**STEEL INDUSTRY URGES ACTION BY U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE RON KIRK
AGAINST RAW MATERIAL EXPORT RESTRICTIONS**



Washington, D.C. – In a letter sent today to the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Ron Kirk, the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI), the Steel Manufacturers Association (SMA), the Specialty Steel Industry of North America (SSINA), the American Scrap Coalition (ASC), the American Foundry Society, the Ductile Iron Pipe Research Association and the Municipal Castings Association, urged Ambassador Kirk to take action to address the growing imposition of restraints on exports of raw materials used in steel making and metal casting by a number of major countries. These raw material export restraints give foreign producers an unfair artificial advantage in international competition at the expense of U.S. steel, metalcasting, and related industries.

In the letter, American steel industry representatives urged the USTR to lead the global trading community in addressing the issue of restraints on exports of raw materials, pointing to India's recent quadrupling of export duties on certain types of iron ore, and Russia's announcement that it will limit exportation of iron and steel scrap through only certain ports. The letter also noted that China has announced further restrictions on exports of fluorspar and refractory bauxite, despite an ongoing WTO challenge to such restrictions.

The letter notes that while some export restrictions – such as those imposed by China – are in clear violation of WTO rules, some of the other restrictions – for example, export duties – may not be subject to uniform international disciplines. The letter recommended that export duties that do not appear to be subject to adequate WTO or other disciplines, should be a priority of international negotiations. “This may require action at both the multilateral and bilateral levels,” the letter stated, “and it will also require greater ambition and effort than contemplated with the current Doha initiative on transparency,” the letter concluded. For a complete copy of the letter, [click here](#).

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