

**Local 1899 – Local 50 – Local 68, UNITED STEELWORKERS (USW)  
2014 State Street, Granite City, IL 62040 | Phone: 618-452-1899**

The Honorable Mike Bost  
U.S. Representative  
Illinois 12th Congressional District  
1440 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

April 6, 2015

Dear Congressman Bost:

As you are aware, the steel industry and its workers are facing increasing pressures that threaten our future.

On March 25, 2015 our employer, United States Steel Corporation, served notice of its intent to temporarily idle operations at our mill in Granite City, Illinois. This action, as a result of market conditions, will not only affect Steelworkers but also the entire region, as every one steel job supports nearly seven more jobs in our communities. In Illinois, 28,400 jobs are supported by the steel industry.

As such, we are writing to ask for your help in four specific areas to protect these good paying, family sustaining, steel industry jobs:

- We need your support for new, stronger trade laws; Existing trade laws have become inadequate and offer relief too late after jobs have been lost and our markets have been flooded.
- We need your support in enforcing strong, effective trade laws; Make trade agreements work by providing necessary tools to deter and penalize unfair trade.
- We need your support in stopping countries from manipulating their currency; Foreign currency manipulation has cost the U.S. between one million to five million jobs, and has increased our trade deficit by \$200 billion to \$500 billion per year.
- We need your support in opposing Fast Track Trade Promotional Authority (TPA). Fast Track trade agreements, in particular, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) now under consideration, will reduce American jobs by making it easier for corporations to invest offshore, outsource production, and drive down wages, further hollowing out middle class America.

Please vote in the interests of Steelworkers and their families in the 12th District.

Respectfully,

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(Member, United Steelworkers)