



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**The Secretary of Commerce**  
Washington, D.C. 20230

April 19, 2017

The Honorable James N. Mattis  
Secretary of Defense  
Washington, DC 20301-3010

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to notify you that I am initiating an investigation to determine the effects of imported steel on national security. I am taking this action pursuant to Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, as amended. Section 232 authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to initiate such an investigation and requires notice to be provided to the Secretary of Defense upon initiation of an investigation.

During the course of the investigation, Department of Commerce staff will consult with their counterparts in the Department of Defense regarding any methodological and policy questions that arise during the investigation. The investigation report will include information the Department of Defense can provide regarding the national defense requirements for steel. I look forward to our collaboration on this important issue.

Our point of contact is Brad Botwin, Director, Industrial Studies, Office of Technology Evaluation, Bureau of Industry and Security. Mr. Botwin can be reached at [Brad.Botwin@bis.doc.gov](mailto:Brad.Botwin@bis.doc.gov) and (202) 482-4060.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Wilbur Ross".

Wilbur Ross