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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6025

August 5, 1999

President William Jefferson Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

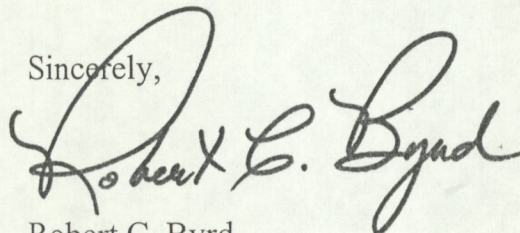
I urge you to sign H.R. 1664, the Emergency Steel Loan Guarantee and Emergency Oil and Gas Guaranteed Loan Act of 1999, as soon as it delivered to you. This legislation was passed by the U.S. Senate on June 18, 1999, and by the U.S. House of Representatives on August 4, 1999.

The historic level of illegally dumped imported steel is a national crisis. The record levels of these foreign imports have caused thousands of U.S. steelworkers to experience layoffs, short work weeks, and reduced pay. American steel companies have suffered from reduced shipments, significant drops in orders, price depression, lower profits, and worse. Already, at least six U.S. steel manufacturers have filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protections, jeopardizing employees, families, and entire communities. This steel loan guarantee program can help to prevent further bankruptcies, and provide vitally important support for the survival of small- and medium-sized steel manufacturers.

Steel communities are proud of their role throughout this nation's history. Through the work of men and women in places like Weirton, West Virginia, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, the backbone of this nation was forged. Steel has always been a driving force in the growth and prosperity of our nation. This legislation is short-term help that gives these companies the support they need to survive and thrive. I urge you, again, to sign this legislation quickly into law, and speed relief to this deserving and essential sector of our economy.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely,



Robert C. Byrd