THIS IS CONGRESSMAN NICK RAHALL.

RECENTLY, U.S. STEEL ANNOUNCED AN ARRANGEMENT WITH THE BRITISH STEEL CORPORATION TO IMPORT THREE MILLION TONS OF UNFINISHED SLAB STEEL. THIS ACTION, WILL FORCE THE CLOSING OF A U.S. STEEL PLANT IN EASTERN PENNSYLVANIA, AND PUT OVER 3,000 PERSONS OUT OF WORK.

THIS IS A DISHEARTENING SIGNAL TO THE SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA COAL INDUSTRY, WHICH PROVIDES THE COAL TO FUEL THE COKING FURNACES FOR THE PRODUCTION OF STEEL.

FOR THIS REASON, I HAVE JOINED WITH A NUMBER OF MY COLLEGUES, TO INTRODUCE A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING CONGRESS' STRONG OPPOSITION TO THIS MOVE BY U.S. STEEL.

SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA FULLY REALIZES THE IMPACT OF A DEPRESSED STEEL INDUSTRY. IF AMERICAN STEEL COMPANIES THEMSELVES BEGIN TO BUY STEEL FROM ABROAD, THEY WILL NOT ONLY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN SELF-DESTRUCTION, BUT WILL PUT HUNDREDS OF MORE COAL MINERS OUT OF WORK. THIS IS SOMETHING THAT WE CANNOT ALLOW TO HAPPEN.

THIS IS YOUR CONGRESSMAN, NICK RAHALL.