

February 19, 2025

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We want to commend you for your statements promoting the interests of American workers and the need to stand up to the Chinese Communist Party's (CCP) unfair trade practices. It is with that sentiment in mind that we write this letter, urging your Administration to enforce strong penalties against China for its unfair trade practices, particularly in the shipbuilding, maritime, and logistics sectors, and to implement policies that will restore U.S. maritime power and promote our economic and national security interests.

The membership of our five collective unions makes up a substantial share of the backbone of American industry – which once was the emblem of the world, leading the way toward the future, but has since been hobbled by non-market countries like China that refuse to play by the rules. That is why last year we filed a petition for relief under Section 301 of our trade laws to challenge the CCP's unreasonable and discriminatory policies and actions in the logistics, shipbuilding and maritime sectors.

Our membership believes as you do that domestic manufacturing must be revitalized so that more products, especially in critical sectors like shipbuilding, are made in America. By making products in America we will boost American industry, grow our economy, create jobs, protect our national interests, and revitalize America's global leadership.

As you know, the previous administration released a comprehensive report finding that over the past several decades, the CCP advanced a systematic array of unfair trade practices and economic policies designed to dominate and control the maritime, shipbuilding and logistics sectors. These actions have severely undermined U.S. economic and national security by displacing our own shipbuilding capabilities and standing in the way of any attempts to restore them. In its report, the Biden Administration made clear that responsive action is necessary and urgent to right this wrong. This responsibility is now in the hands of your Administration, and the time to act is now.

Between 2010 and 2018, the Chinese Communist Party is estimated to have distributed well over \$100 billion in unfair support for its shipbuilding industry. As a result of that support, it was recently reported that a staggering 71 percent of the world's ship orders in 2024 went to China's shipyards. While China's industry has flourished the report clearly indicates that it has come at the expense of America's shipbuilding industry.

In 2023, the U.S. produced fewer than ten ocean-going commercial vessels while the PRC produced over 1,000. Due to their unfair trade action, tens of thousands of U.S. jobs have been lost. China has more than 5,500 flagged oceangoing merchant vessels while the U.S. has fewer than 80. The ability to produce vessels for commercial use has been slashed and the impact on our military shipbuilding capabilities has been significant. These numbers are staggering, and they demand action.

America's economic and military might have been a source of great pride throughout our history, with the collective capacity of our great companies and workers building the greatest fleet of American-made ships the world had ever seen standing as a shining example. Even today, our workers are still the most productive in the world and it would be a mistake to cede this critical sector to foreign production. The future is still in our hands, but the time to act is now.

Shipbuilding is a multi-billion-dollar industry. Shipyards currently support more than 100,000 jobs across the country, and the shipbuilding supplier base supports an additional 400,000 jobs nationwide. With your leadership, U.S. ships can once again be made in America - creating jobs, growing the economy, and restoring the might of American industry to again be a source of great pride for all Americans. Our nation can once again sail the seas, supporting commerce and our national interest, on ships made here at home in U.S. shipyards and by America's workers.

It is with that deep pride and collective desire to protect our economic welfare and national security that we filed the Section 301 petition to stand up to China. We urge you to take responsive action to impose tough penalties against vessels built according to the plans, policies, and actions of the Chinese Communist Party and to adopt complimentary policies that rebuild America's shipbuilding capacity and workforce.

We can no longer afford to allow subsidized Chinese-built ships carrying dumped and subsidized Chinese products into our markets, destroying U.S. factories and jobs. It is through your leadership and action on this critical issue that we can rebuild the American shipbuilding industry.

Our original petition called for responsive actions to deter the purchase of Chinese-built ships from entering our ports and meaningful steps to strengthen our shipbuilding capabilities and the supply chains that support them. Not to be overlooked, the petition outlined actions necessary to counter CCP policies designed to dominate and control logistics and maritime sectors.

Together, we stand ready to work with your Administration to restore American maritime, shipbuilding and logistics superiority.

Sincerely,



David McCall
United Steelworkers
International President



Brian Bryant
IAMAW
International President



Timothy Simmons
Int'l Brotherhood of Boilermakers
International President



Kenneth W. Cooper
Int'l Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
International President