



The Japan Iron and Steel Federation

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March 2, 2018

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

Re: Submission of Comments
The Release of the Section 232 Report on Steel by the Department of Commerce

Dear Mr. President:

We write today in response to the report released by the Department of Commerce on February 16, 2018, concerning the Section 232 investigation on the effect of imports of steel mill products on U.S. national security.

It is our view that the tariff increase you mentioned on March 1 or each recommendation made in the report is a market-distorting measure which would cause serious harmful effects not only on steel exports from Japan but also on steel trade worldwide. It is likely that U.S. actions taken pursuant to Section 232 will create a negative chain reaction affecting not only steel but also other products considered to have national security implications, with other countries taking similar actions under similar pretenses.

Maintaining the principle of free trade is vital for sustainable economic growth and that principle should be fully respected.

We sincerely ask you to consider these issues and strongly hope that you will exercise fair and sound judgment not to impose tariffs or other restrictions on imported steel pursuant to the recommendations outlined in the Section 232 report.

Respectfully yours,

Kosei Shindo
Chairman of the Japan Iron and Steel Federation (JISF)

CC

The Honorable Wilbur Ross, Secretary of the Department of Commerce
The Honorable Robert Lighthizer, United States Trade Representative
The Honorable James N. Mattis, Secretary of Defense
The Honorable Rex W. Tillerson, Secretary of State
The Honorable Gary Cohn, Director of the National Economic Council