

**April 6, 2011**

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) – Today, U.S. Congressman Jason Altmire (PA-04) testified before the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) to highlight the need to prevent Brazil, Japan, and Russia from engaging in unfair trade practices by once again flooding American markets with underpriced hot-rolled steel. U.S. Steel and AK Steel, companies with strong ties to western Pennsylvania, are two of America's leading producers of hot-rolled steel.

**"The steel industry is a vitally important part of western Pennsylvania's economy and provides well-paying jobs for thousands of local families," Congressman Altmire said. "If we want our domestic steel industry to continue to bounce back from the recent recession, we have to make sure that they have the opportunity to compete in a fair marketplace. I urge the ITC to take the actions needed to ensure that our domestic steel manufacturers will not be undermined by other countries' unfair and illegal trade practices."**

Hot-rolled steel is used primarily in the automobile industry and the construction trade. Due to the fact that these two industries were among the sectors hit hardest by the recent economic downturn, America's domestic hot-rolled steel industry operated at only 69 percent of total capacity last year. Allowing the duties on hot-rolled steel imports from Brazil, Japan and Russia to expire would further depress this industry and lead to American job losses.

To read the full text of Congressman Altmire's remarks, please [click here](#) .