



HR1139

LRB100 22141 MST 40540 r

1 HOUSE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Steel has always been a core part of the industry  
3 and manufacturing sector of the United States; in Illinois, the  
4 steel industry employs over 9,000 workers and supports  
5 approximately 64,000 jobs; and

6 WHEREAS, At its height in the 1940s and 1950s, American  
7 steel accounted for about 40% of production worldwide, and the  
8 industry employed over 650,000 workers; today, China has taken  
9 over the steel market, producing 49% of the 1.7 billion metric  
10 tons produced globally in 2017, while the United States ranked  
11 fifth with 5% of production; and

12 WHEREAS, China's overwhelming grip on the industry has  
13 forced prices down and pushed American companies out of  
14 business, leading to the layoff of thousands of American  
15 workers; and

16 WHEREAS, Currently, there are approximately 140,000  
17 Americans working in the steel industry, a decline of over  
18 500,000 from the industry's peak; and

19 WHEREAS, The U.S. is the world's top importer of steel; in  
20 2017, we imported 36 million metric tons of steel, while only  
21 producing 10.1 million metric tons; and

1           WHEREAS, The total U.S. trade deficit with China was \$375  
2 billion in 2017; and

3           WHEREAS, Despite these troubling trends, public contracts  
4 continue to be awarded to Chinese companies that have undercut  
5 our market with predatory prices; the Chicago Transit Authority  
6 recently awarded a \$1.3 billion contract for new rail cars to  
7 the Chinese CRRC Corporation, further undermining U.S. steel;  
8 and

9           WHEREAS, American tax dollars should be used to back  
10 American companies, support American jobs, build up our  
11 infrastructure and encourage long term growth in our industry  
12 and manufacturing sector; and

13           WHEREAS, Illinois should implement a "Buy America" policy  
14 which would give preference to American companies for publicly  
15 funded infrastructure projects; such a policy would improve our  
16 infrastructure, create jobs, and give Illinois a tool to use  
17 against unfair pricing from foreign companies; and

18           WHEREAS, Illinois should also institute a "Buy Illinois"  
19 policy, which would give further preference to companies  
20 located in Illinois; both such policies have been introduced in  
21 the House by Representative Jay Hoffman as HB 4574 and HB 4575;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, It is within our power to fight back against  
3 Chinese control of the steel market by using taxpayer dollars  
4 to support American jobs, families, and communities;  
5 therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE  
7 HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
8 recognize the importance of steel to manufacturing base of the  
9 United States, and we support American steel workers and  
10 American steel companies; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That the State of Illinois should implement a  
12 "Buy America" and a "Buy Illinois" policy, which would help  
13 grow the steel industry, create jobs, build the middle class,  
14 and protect American companies and workers.