



SR0084

LRB101 10681 MST 55791 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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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  
12 industrial 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; and

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

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

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