



Leo W. Gerard
International President

September 23, 2010

VIA FAX

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Vote on Currency Legislation

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 850,000 members of the United Steelworkers union (the USW), I write in strong support of the Chairman's amendment in the nature of a substitute to the *Currency Reform for Fair Trade Act*, H.R. 2378, which is scheduled for consideration before the House Ways & Means Committee on Friday September 24th. We urge an affirmative vote in the Committee without additional amendment and a swift vote on that legislation by the full House before the recess.

The USW commends Chairman Levin and House Leadership for their determination and commitment to effectively address deliberate currency undervaluation with this legislation. The USW, along with hundreds of organizations and groups, has been fighting long and hard for concrete measures to address this protracted anti-competitive behavior. Being the largest industrial union in North America, our members know only too well the terrible price they and other American workers have had to pay as the result of the worst beggar-thy-neighbor trade practices a country can engage in – the deliberate undervaluation of its currency.

This egregious behavior puts U.S. goods at an unfair disadvantage both in the U.S. market and in global markets and undermines our capacity to create good jobs in America, both making products and exporting them around the world. Such deliberate currency undervaluation has also inflated the vast U.S. trade deficit and swelled the nation's overall federal budget deficit.

The deliberate undervaluation of currency by foreign governments has created an economic tsunami that our members can no longer withstand. Over the past decade, the nation has lost approximately six million jobs, two million in the past two years alone, and we have seen 57,000 manufacturing plants shutdown forever. Meanwhile, our members, their families and their communities have had to stand by and

watch as millions of good-paying jobs are sent off-shore to countries like China, one of the worse currency manipulators. For our members and working Americans across the country, the American dream is becoming a thing of the past.

This bill will give us the tools we need to address the shuttered factories and shattered dreams that currency manipulation has caused.

Enough is enough. House Congressional members now have the opportunity to stand up for American workers and reverse years of damage to our economy by passing the most important piece of trade legislation in this Congress. A “yes” vote will help set the country on a sustainable path for economic growth, help in rebalancing our massive trade and federal budget deficits and create good jobs and investment right here in America. Now is the time to act. We urge you to do so and let’s make sure we *Make it in America* again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leo W. Gerard". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Leo W. Gerard
International President