

December 13, 2024

Honorable Ron Wyden
Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance
Washington, DC

Honorable Mike Crapo
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Finance
Washington, DC

Dear Chairman Wyden and Ranking Member Crapo:

On behalf of the Alliance for American Manufacturing (AAM) – a partnership between the United Steelworkers and leading U.S. manufacturers – I write to express our strong opposition to any rushed consideration of U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) nominations in the remaining days of the 118th Congress.

U.S. manufacturers and their workers rely on the Committee to scrutinize any previous work experience or public comments which may suggest that an ITC nominee is not qualified or does not respect our trade enforcement laws. Unfortunately, unfair trade practices are an everyday reality for U.S. manufacturers and their workers and a broader existential danger to our rules-based market economy. Left unchecked, trade cheating results in negative community and personal impacts on people's lives when a factory closes or is forced to operate at a reduced capacity. Indeed, the deterioration of our industrial base due to unfair trade has had profound consequences for our national security.

We urge the Committee to thoroughly execute its advice and consent responsibilities to confirm that the President's ITC nominations are "possessed of qualifications requisite for developing expert knowledge of international trade problems and efficiency in administering the duties and functions of the Commission." *19 USC 1330*. The Committee has long relied upon procedural precedents for vetting nominees, thus ensuring that it has properly exercised its due diligence. For appointments so critical to American manufacturing jobs, the Committee's work should not be hurried by last-minute appointments or under the misguided rationale that legislative days are dwindling. Indeed, it would be particularly troubling to both domestic industries and workers to rush nominations made in the waning days of the current administration after years of delays on new ITC commissioner appointments.

The ITC plays an important role in ensuring a level playing field and fair market competition across countless industrial sectors. AAM urges the Committee to work in a bipartisan manner with the next administration to nominate and fully vet qualified candidates for the position of ITC commissioner.

Sincerely,



Scott N. Paul
President
Alliance for American Manufacturing