

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

May 14, 2026

The Honorable Scott Bessent  
Secretary of the Treasury  
U.S. Department of Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20220

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

The Honorable Jamieson Greer  
United States Trade Representative  
100 17th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20508

The Honorable Howard Lutnick  
Secretary of Commerce  
U.S. Department of Commerce  
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Bessent, Ambassador Greer, Secretary Lutnick, and Secretary Rubio,

We write as leaders of the Congressional Steel Caucus to highlight the national security and economic imperative of protecting U.S. automotive manufacturing, which sustains millions of good-paying American jobs across the domestic supply chain. As President Trump engages in ongoing negotiations with President Xi Jinping, we urge you to reject any proposal that lowers barriers to access for Chinese automakers into American markets or would allow Chinese automakers to enter the U.S. market through joint ventures, partnerships, licensing arrangements, or other collaborative structures with U.S. or third country firms.

China's nonmarket industrial policy poses a sustained threat to the American steel and automotive sectors, where the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) provides state-backed support for below-market products that drive global overcapacity. Chinese steelmakers currently account for over half of global steel production and receive 15 times the level of subsidies than do their competitors in market-based economies.<sup>1</sup> Similar unfair trade practices have driven a rapid expansion of Chinese autos that have reshaped global markets over the last several years. Last month, it was reported that Chinese exports of passenger vehicles were 85 percent higher than the year prior.<sup>2</sup> This meteoric growth has allowed Chinese autos to take significant market share across the global south and other emerging markets. And now Chinese automakers have increasingly focused their sales efforts on the North American market. Allowing Chinese

---

<sup>1</sup> OECD (2025), "The drivers and impacts of subsidies to steel firms", *OECD Science, Technology and Industry Policy Papers*, No. 184, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/33e4b097-en>.

<sup>2</sup> Ho-him, C. (2026, May 11). *China's passenger car exports surge nearly 85% in April as domestic sales slump*. AP News. <https://apnews.com/article/china-autos-evs-exports-cars-2e1c50df43a9c4975fd6d9f33e920545>

automakers increased access to sale and operations on U.S. soil would make it impossible for American producers to compete on a level playing field.

Additionally, China has a history of skirting existing U.S. trade laws by establishing operations in other markets through its Belt and Road Initiative. The result for American steel producers has been detrimental, leaving significant loopholes for the dumping of Chinese products that flood the market. This is especially concerning given the recent actions from North American partners to ease barriers to entry for Chinese automakers.

Maintaining the health of U.S. automotive manufacturing is vital to the success of the domestic steel industry. Across all domestically produced steel products, the automotive sector represents more than 20 percent of demand, and steel comprises about 54 percent of an average vehicle by weight.<sup>3</sup> This sector supports millions of good-paying, family-supporting American jobs across a vast network of critical supply chains from research and development facilities to steel mills to assembly lines. Protecting these industries from unfair Chinese intervention is vital to our workforce and to U.S. economic and national security.

We appreciate the Administration's efforts to reshore American manufacturing and protect the domestic steel industry, and we ask that you take clear action to address the threat China poses to our domestic auto industry.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



---

Rick Crawford  
Member of Congress  
Chairman  
Congressional Steel Caucus



---

Frank J. Mrvan  
Member of Congress  
Vice Chairman  
Congressional Steel Caucus

---

<sup>3</sup> Automotive. American Iron and Steel Institute. (2026, May 4). <https://www.steel.org/steel-markets/automotive/>