



**Congressional Steel Caucus
Testimony of
Al Behr
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Chairmen Mrvan and Lamb, Vice Chairmen Crawford and Bost, on behalf of Nucor Corporation's more than 31,000 teammates, thank you for the opportunity to speak today about the investments we are making in American steel. My name is Al Behr, and I am Executive Vice President of Plate and Structural Products for Nucor Corporation.

For decades, this Caucus has been the first line of defense in keeping our trade laws strong and helping to get foreign governments out of the steel business. We must all continue to fight for a global steel market where winners are determined by market forces – not by government subsidies or other non-economic factors. Because of your hard work and diligence, the playing field is more level today for our industry – which has led to billions of dollars of new investments and thousands of new jobs.

At Nucor, we are seizing this opportunity by investing more than \$12 billion to expand our steelmaking capabilities and target new growth areas for steel demand. By the end of this year, we will begin operating our steel mill in Brandenburg, Kentucky, which will produce plate steel for offshore wind towers and other infrastructure projects. This market is currently served by foreign steel. We will also soon break ground on a new steel sheet mill in Mason County, West Virginia. This will be one of the most technologically advanced and have one of the lowest carbon footprints of any sheet mill in the world. And we recently announced a new

rebar micro mill in Lexington, North Carolina, which will serve construction customers from Washington, D.C. to Atlanta. These projects will create thousands of family-supporting jobs and enable our next generation of manufacturing workers to have a promising future in their home communities.

As customers look to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their supply chains, the low emission steel produced by the U.S. industry gives us a competitive advantage. By pioneering the use of recycling to make new steel, Nucor has led the way as one of the cleanest steelmakers in the world. Our GHG intensity is less than one-quarter of the global average and one-fifth of the average blast furnace producer. This puts us 20 years ahead of the Paris Agreement's most aggressive benchmark for the global steel sector. And even though we're one of the cleanest steelmakers in the world, we are actively investing to reduce our carbon footprint even further.

Finally, the pandemic has taught us that developing strong, resilient domestic supply chains for critical materials like semiconductors is vital. Reshoring semiconductor production presents tremendous potential for unleashing a manufacturing renaissance in the United States. We are encouraged by the increased focus Congress and the Administration have given to this critical issue, and to our country's broader competitiveness with China. As legislation advances, we must also use this opportunity to address the Chinese government's latest schemes to evade our trade laws, as Representatives Sewell and Johnson have proposed in "*Leveling the Playing Field Act 2.0*." We are confident Congress will get this important bipartisan priority across the finish line.

Last week, Nucor reached the 50-year milestone of being listed on the New York Stock Exchange, and we will celebrate by ringing the closing bell on Tuesday. In

the last 50 years, while total domestic steel production in the U.S. has decreased by almost 30 percent, Nucor has grown from a company that produced only 138,000 tons of recycled steel at one small bar mill in Darlington, South Carolina, to become the industry leader, producing over 25 million tons of bar, sheet, plate and structural steel for our economy at 25 mills. We appreciate the steadfast support and leadership from all of you in this Caucus. Thank you for the partnership you have built with our industry – the work you are doing is truly making a difference.

Thank you.