

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

February 11, 2004

The Honorable George W. Bush  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As members of the Ohio Congressional delegation, we are writing to you about a serious issue that relates directly to jobs in our state – the specialty metals provisions of the Berry Amendment.

Last year, when Congress took up the 2004 Defense Reauthorization bill your Administration recommended that the Berry Amendment be radically overhauled. The proposed changes would have so vitiated the law that its guarantees of preserving certain industries in our nation's defense industrial base would have been lost, along with many jobs in Ohio. Fortunately, after extensive discussions and several weeks of deliberations, the House and Senate Armed Services Committee Conference agreed to leave intact the Berry Amendment and all its defense industrial base protections – including the provisions relating to specialty metals.

In the weeks ahead, Congress will begin consideration of the 2005 Defense Reauthorization Act, and we look forward to working with the Department of Defense and the Administration to ensure that the bill fully addresses our nation's national security needs. We believe that the Berry Amendment provides protections that are critical to our nation's security, and we hope that you will join us in fully protecting its provisions – especially those that pertain to specialty metals.

About a quarter century ago, the Specialty Metals Clause was added to the Berry Amendment, thus requiring that certain metals used by the Department of Defense (DoD) actually be produced ("melted") in the U.S. One of the specialty metals covered by this clause is titanium, which is produced in Ohio and other states throughout the nation. The purpose of the Berry Amendment's specialty metals provisions is to ensure that the U.S. retains the capacity and the trained work force to produce certain materials critical to our national security.

Titanium, which is necessary for the production of modern military aircraft and other defense applications, is vital to our national defense. There are currently only four producers in the world capable of supplying DoD with the quality and quantity of titanium necessary for our defense needs. Three are medium-sized U.S. companies and the fourth is a formerly state-owned Russian enterprise. Our domestic titanium producers

depend on the Berry Amendment, and without it DoD might find itself dependent on a single supplier, a Russian company.

The importance of the Berry Amendment and its benefits to our nation's industrial base, key U.S. industries and their skilled workers, and the states where they operate cannot be overstated. So as we embark on addressing our nation's national security needs in the 2005 Defense Reauthorization Act, we ask for your support in preserving the Berry Amendment as it now stands and your help in ensuring full compliance.

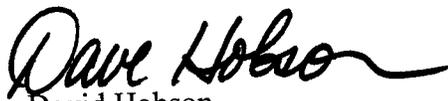
Respectfully yours,



Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress



Ralph Regula  
Member of Congress



David Hobson  
Member of Congress



Ted Strickland  
Member of Congress



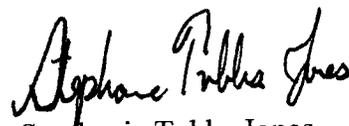
Steven LaTourette  
Member of Congress



Marcy Kaptur  
Member of Congress



Paul Gillmor  
Member of Congress



Stephanie Tubbs Jones  
Member of Congress



Sherrod Brown  
Member of Congress



Bob Ney  
Member of Congress

Cc: The Honorable Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense