



March 3, 2013

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall II
Ranking Member, House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
2307 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member Rahall:

On behalf of the American Foundry Society (AFS) and its member companies, we commend you for reintroducing the *Invest in American Jobs Act*. This important legislation creates strong Buy America standards that will ensure that investments in our nation's transportation (highway, bridge, public transit, and rail) and water infrastructure systems will keep and grow manufacturing jobs in America.

Among other provisions, this bill will bring the nation's principal federal-aid wastewater infrastructure program in line with other federal-aid programs for infrastructure by granting U.S.-produced iron and steel products a preference in treatment works projects financed by or funded with federal tax dollars. It makes sense that we use American-made steel, iron and manufactured goods in these critical tax payer funded water and transportation infrastructure projects.

AFS is the leading trade association dedicated to the U.S. metalcasting industry representing over 7,000 members from over 2,000 facilities and suppliers in every state in the nation. More than 90% of all manufactured goods and capital equipment use metal castings as engineered components or rely on castings for their manufacture. Our members produce critical iron and steel castings for use in hundreds of thousands of industrial and commercial applications. Metalcasters employ over 200,000 men and women directly and support thousands of other jobs indirectly. The majority of our member companies are small-businesses, with 80 percent of foundry shops employing fewer than 100 workers. Many of these facilities are still family-owned.

Our member companies manufacture a significant portion of the castings that can be utilized in the nation's water, wastewater and transportation infrastructure. For example, foundries produce engine transmissions and other parts utilized in construction equipment, parts for railroads, aviation equipment, pipes, fittings, meter boxes, manhole covers, and valves. Imported castings now comprise nearly 25 percent of the market, with more than a quarter of these imports coming from China where energy, labor, tax and material costs are substantially lower partly due to government subsidies.

Once again, thank you again for reintroducing this important bill. AFS supports your efforts and looks forward to working with the Congress to pass the *Invest in American Jobs Act*.

Sincerely,

Jerry Call
Executive Vice President - American Foundry Society