

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

January 15, 2020

The Honorable Eugene Scalia
Secretary of Labor
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Scalia,

We write in strong support of the Trade Adjustment Assistance petition (TAW-95201) for workers at U.S. Steel's Great Lakes Works operation in Southeast Michigan. This petition, which could impact over 1,700 workers at Great Lakes Works, has been under review since September 20, 2019. We urge you to quickly conclude your investigation and issue a determination that will ensure all Steelworkers and trade-impacted workers at the Great Lakes Works facilities are provided with a robust set of benefits through the Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) for Workers program.

On September 20, 2019, the Michigan State Workforce Office filed a petition on behalf of workers at a U.S. Steel operation in Ecorse, Michigan. According to federal law, your agency is required to issue a determination on a TAA petition as soon as possible but no later than 40 days after it is received. The Department of Labor has blown past its deadline to issue a determination, and trade-impacted workers in Michigan are still waiting for assistance.

The significance of this petition has only increased since U.S. Steel announced on December 19, 2019, that the company intends to idle indefinitely significant portions of the Great Lakes Works operations in Ecorse, Michigan, including its Ironmaking, Steelmaking, and Hot Strip Mill rolling facilities. The December announcement from U.S. Steel will impact thousands of workers and will cause economic harm to communities in southeast Michigan.

The TAA for Workers program was designed to provide trade-impacted workers with the tools necessary to get back on their feet after employment loss. Although the TAA program is not a substitute for a comprehensive strategy to keep good-paying jobs in Michigan, it does offer trade-impacted workers and their families income support, job training, tax credits for health care, and other benefits as they transition to new employment.

Your Department has an obligation to provide workers at the Great Lakes Works facility with critical information on TAA benefits. We respectfully request that the Department take immediate action to certify this petition and provide workers with the support they need to plan for the future.

Sincerely,



Debbie Stabenow
United States Senator



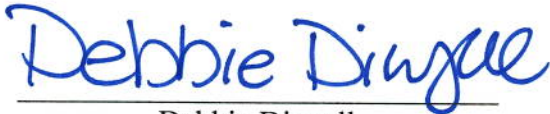
Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress