

## (March 17, 2005) Science Committee Passes Lipinski's Steel & Aluminum Act

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Legislation Preserves Illinois Steel Jobs and Protects Environment

WASHINGTON, DC - The domestic steel and aluminum industries will get help developing and implementing cost-saving and environmentally-friendly modern technology under a bill passed today by the House Science Committee. House Resolution 1158, co-sponsored by Illinois Congressman Daniel Lipinski, would reauthorize the Steel and Aluminum Energy Conservation and Technology Competitiveness Act of 1988. Its purpose is to authorize federal cost sharing of research whose goals are threefold: Energy-efficiency, increasing the competitiveness of U.S. industry and improving the environment.

Rep. Lipinski led efforts to quickly move the bill through the Science Committee today in order to insure that the full House considers and passes the legislation early in this session.

"Steel manufacturing is important in northeastern Illinois and our industry has been heavily impacted by international competition," Lipinski said. "This bill will protect valuable jobs and vital businesses in our area."

"While the US steel industry is much more modern than a decade and a half ago, the pace of technology and the competition from overseas is relentless. Reauthorization of this bill is essential to preserve American jobs, to keep the customers of the U.S. steel industry strong, and to assure that our defense industry has the secure supply of domestic steel products it needs," added Rep. Lipinski.

"The success of the American steel industry has a special personal significance for me," Rep. Lipinski continued. "My father-in-law was a steelworker at Bethlehem Steel in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, before his plant closed due to foreign competition. This bill will help prevent further losses of good American jobs like his by increasing the competitiveness of our domestic industry."

"I'm proud to be able to play a role in advancing this bill vital to an important Illinois industry so early in this Congress," concluded Rep. Lipinski.

The measure now goes to the full House of Representatives for action.