

JOINT RESOLUTIONS

WHEREAS, The American steel industry continues to contribute significantly to the economies of the United States and the State of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, The American steel industry provides hundreds of thousands of jobs nationally and thousands of jobs in Maryland; and

WHEREAS, The American steel industry spends annually billions of dollars nationally and hundreds of millions of dollars in Maryland for wages, materials, freight, and services; and

WHEREAS, The American steel industry's contributions to our national and state economies have diminished greatly over the past 5 years principally due to unfair trade practices in foreign steel imports; and

WHEREAS, Foreign steel imports unfairly traded in the United States are devastating the American steel industry and have resulted in the deterioration of our national and state economies; and

WHEREAS, Over 200,000 steelworker jobs have been lost in the United States since 1977; and

WHEREAS, Thousands of steelworker jobs have been lost in Maryland since 1977 and the remaining Maryland jobs in the steel industry continue to be threatened by foreign steel imports; and

WHEREAS, As of December, 1983 almost 100,000 steel industry workers continue to be unemployed; and

WHEREAS, Major steel plant closings continue to occur throughout the nation and in the State - triggered by an unprecedented flood of steel imports; and

WHEREAS, Foreign steel producers have gained approximately 20 percent of steel consumed in the United States largely by unfair trade practices and in violation of United States trade laws and international agreements; and

WHEREAS, Foreign steel producers are assisted and encouraged to engage in unfair trade practices by their home countries; and

WHEREAS, Foreign countries subsidize their steel producers by financial aid, domestic market protection, antitrust exemption, cartel formations and targeted foreign government development assistance; and

WHEREAS, The American steel industry simply cannot compete with such unfair trade practices by foreign nations and foreign steel producers; and