

The government has undertaken a number of initiatives intended to seek a resolution of the issue. These include an advocacy campaign in the United States in support of the industry's proposed bilateral steel accord, a proposal for a Canada-United States panel on steel trade, and Canada's participation in discussions on the United States proposed Multilateral Steel Agreement. These initiatives are in addition to assistance that the government has provided to the industry response to the United States investigations themselves.

On the proposed bilateral steel accord, Mr. Wilson said: "The industry and the government will continue to pursue the objective of concluding a steel accord with the United States. Today's action, as well as the recent action by Revenue Canada, demonstrates the counterproductive nature of both countries taking anti-dumping action against imports from each other."

Under United States trade law, anti-dumping duties will be imposed on imports, if the Department of Commerce and the United States International Trade Commission (ITC) make final affirmative determinations of dumping and injury respectively. Commerce is expected to make its final determination by April 12, while the ITC's final determination by is expected by May 27. Until the duties are finalized, importers will be required to post bonds covering the provisional duties.

Both of the final determinations in these investigations may be challenged under the dispute settlement provisions of Chapter 19 of the Canada-United States Free Trade Agreement.

- 30 -

For further information, media representatives may contact:

Media Relations Office
External Affairs and International Trade Canada
(613) 995-1874