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**Thomas J. Gibson**  
President and Chief Executive Officer

October 20, 2009

The Honorable Ashton B. Carter  
Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for  
Acquisition, Technology and Logistics  
U.S. Department of Defense  
Washington, DC 20301-3010

Dear Under Secretary Carter:

I am writing on behalf of several U.S. steel companies who are members of the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI), and one of their customers, Infrastructure Defense Technologies (IDT), from Belvidere, Illinois. Specifically, I am writing in reference to a contract award by the Defense Logistics Agency for "Expeditionary Earth Filled Protective Barriers," Solicitation SPM8E6-08-R-0061. It is our understanding that this contract was awarded to a foreign company based only on their lower price, yet the solicitation for this award clearly stated that "technical factors were significantly more important than cost or price."

The Defense Supply Center Philadelphia (DSCP) rated the IDT product--critical force protection barriers--as superior in performance with regard to protecting our troops, according to IDT. In fact, of the seven companies' proposals that were submitted, IDT's product received the best technical rating, both overall and in terms of protection requirements. In addition, IDT points out that the life cycle cost of the foreign product selected was not taken into account, which would add additional costs to the foreign company's proposal.

AISI and our members, who make approximately 75 percent of the steel produced in America, urge you to review this award in light of the current economic situation in this country, the depressed state of the manufacturing sector and most importantly the Buy American requirements that we thought were in place for such contracts at the Defense Department.

According to IDT, this contract would have created or saved hundreds of high-value steel production, distribution and trucking jobs in places like Pennsylvania, Indiana and Ohio, states where, in some areas, the unemployment rate exceeds 15 percent.

In addition, IDT planned to hire combat veterans for some key positions in their company if awarded this contract.

I urge you to review the IDT proposal in light of the current circumstances and facts and hopefully make a new determination in this case, particularly at a time when a cornerstone of

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President Obama's economic stimulus plan is to create valuable, high-paying jobs for American workers.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas J. Gibson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "T".

Thomas J. Gibson

*AISI serves as the voice of the North American steel industry in the public policy arena and advances the case for steel in the marketplace as the preferred material of choice. AISI also plays a lead role in the development and application of new steels and steelmaking technology. AISI is comprised of 24 member companies, including integrated and electric furnace steelmakers, and 138 associate and affiliate members who are suppliers to or customers of the steel industry. AISI's member companies represent approximately 75 percent of both U.S. and North American steel capacity. For more news about steel and its applications, view AISI's Web site at [www.steel.org](http://www.steel.org).*