

News Release

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ISRI Organizes to Counter Proposed Attack on Free Trade

WASHINGTON, DC -- **The Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries (ISRI)** announced today that the organization has retained counsel and created a blue-ribbon industry panel to provide strategic advice in the effort to counter recent threats of an attack on free trade by certain segments of the steel industry seeking to impose export controls on ferrous scrap.

ISRI has retained **Patton Boggs, L.L.P.**, one of the nation's leading law firms dealing with international law, global business and trade. Patton Boggs also served as counsel when ISRI successfully led efforts to stop a similar attack in 1979.

"As the voice of the recycling industry, ISRI will vigorously defend free and fair trade practices in scrap metal," said ISRI Chair Charles Williams. "We must fight to ensure that U.S. scrap processors are not unfairly kept from participating in the world scrap marketplace."

Williams announced that ISRI's panel of advisors includes many of the country's leading scrap metal processors and exporters. This panel will provide scrap industry guidance not only to ISRI but also to federal officials as needed.

"Protectionist export controls are not the answer to improving the steel industry's situation or to helping the American economy," Williams added. "Such controls have not helped in the past and may, in fact, have contributed to problems, leaving us to wonder whether the complainants are actually seeking to use export controls as an unfair means of price control."

Williams also noted that ISRI is confident that the Bush Administration will recognize that export controls are not needed. President Bush was clear about his Administration's policy in his State of the Union address last month when he said, "My administration is promoting free and fair trade, to open up new markets for America's entrepreneurs, and manufacturers, and farmers, to create jobs for American workers."

The Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc. (ISRI) is the "Voice of the Recycling Industry." With 21 chapters nationwide and headquarters in Washington, D.C., ISRI represents over 1,200 companies that process, broker, and consume scrap commodities, including metals, paper, plastics, glass, rubber, electronics, and textiles. The Institute provides education, advocacy, and compliance training, and promotes public awareness of the value and importance of recycling to the production of the world's goods and services.