



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**The Secretary of Commerce**  
Washington, D.C. 20230

March 4, 2019

The Honorable Patrick M. Shanahan  
Acting Secretary of Defense  
Washington, DC 20301-3010

Dear Mr. Acting Secretary:

I am writing to notify you that I am initiating an investigation in response to a petition requesting a determination of the effects of imported titanium sponge on national security. I am taking this action pursuant to Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962, as amended (19 U.S.C. § 1862). Section 232 requires notice be provided to the Secretary of Defense upon initiation of an investigation.

During the course of the investigation, Department of Commerce staff will consult with their counterparts in the Department of Defense regarding any methodological and policy questions that arise during the investigation. The investigation report will include any information provided by the Department of Defense regarding the national defense requirements for titanium sponge.

The Department's point of contact for this investigation is Brad Botwin, Director, Industrial Studies, Office of Technology Evaluation, Bureau of Industry and Security. Mr. Botwin can be reached at [Brad.Botwin@bis.doc.gov](mailto:Brad.Botwin@bis.doc.gov) and (202) 482-4060.

I look forward to our collaboration on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wilbur Ross". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wilbur Ross