



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

May 21, 2020

The Honorable Mark T. Esper  
Secretary of Defense  
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Mr. 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 vanadium on the national security of the United States. 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 that 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 information provided by the Department of Defense regarding the national defense requirements for vanadium.

The Department's point of contact for this investigation is Richard E. Ashooh, Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security. Mr. Ashooh can be reached at [Richard.Ashooh@bis.doc.gov](mailto:Richard.Ashooh@bis.doc.gov) and (202) 482-5711.

I look forward to our collaboration on this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wilbur Ross".

Wilbur Ross