

Local chamber president decries China's dumping of steel in Canada



CHRIS THOMPSON, WINDSOR STAR

[More from Chris Thompson, Windsor Star \(HTTP://WINDSORSTAR.COM/AUTHOR/CHRIS-THOMPSON-WINDSOR-STAR\)](http://WINDSORSTAR.COM/AUTHOR/CHRIS-THOMPSON-WINDSOR-STAR)

Published on: March 21, 2017 | Last Updated: March 21, 2017 10:03 PM EDT



Matt Marchand, president and CEO of the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce is shown on May 16, 2016.

DAN JANISSE / WINDSOR STAR

Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce president and CEO Matt Marchand was among a delegation that presented before the House of Commons Standing Committee on International Trade on Tuesday to decry China's dumping of steel in Canada and the economic impact.

"It was certainly a good discussion today," said Marchand, who was joined by representatives of the Sault Ste. Marie and Hamilton chambers of commerce as well as representatives of several Canadian steel producers including Stelco and Evraz.

"The overall theme from our leaders, the chambers and the steel community was we can't expect our companies, our entrepreneurs, to compete against government departments of China that have little regard for profits or losses and basically are driven by employment and production quotas," said Marchand.

"It's really unfair and we shouldn't expect our companies and our middle class and our entrepreneurs to compete against government-operated businesses in China."

The three communities came representing more than 2,500 businesses that are united behind the need for the government of Canada to secure a competitive future for the domestic steel industry.

"We talked about the impact on communities with respect to China steel dumping and the impact on working on our middle class, our ability to keep and grow employment levels in the context of massive dumping of steel into Canada, displacing the industry," said Marchand.

"It's a huge problem and if we could eliminate dumping tomorrow, jobs across Ontario, and in the Windsor-Essex area would be very much enhanced."

Marchand cited Atlas Tube in Harrow, which manufactures structural steel tubing.

"You'd probably see a significant increase in jobs and production at Atlas Tube," said Marchand, adding that steel makers in Ontario would reopen or hire more workers.

"The Atlas Tube plant employs over 200 people and produce over \$250 million of product a year. It's the most efficient producer of structural tubing in the world."

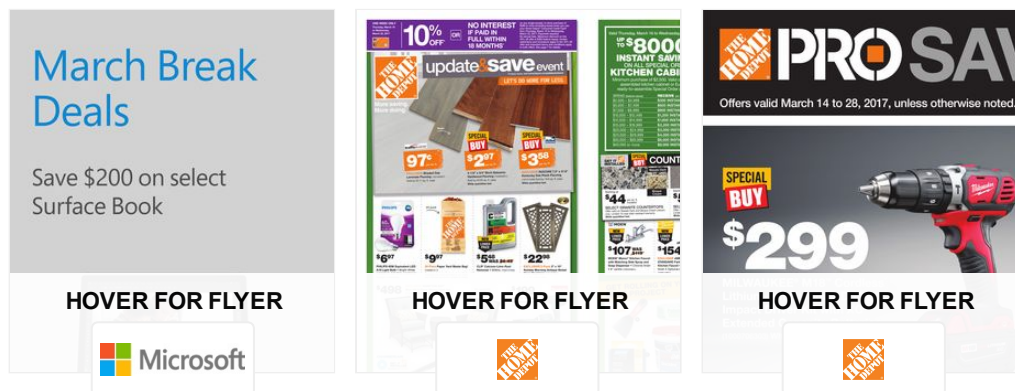
Marchand said one of the steel industry representatives characterized the whole process to a game of Whack-a-Mole, where a trade complaint is launched, it takes two years to be settled and by then the damage is already done.

"Right now we are approaching a \$50 billion trade deficit with China and that's almost a billion a week," Marchand said.

"We have to do a better job of eliminating bad actors in the trading system that are abusing the trading system for the gain of their own countries. And it's clear the trading system is being abused. America has America first, China has China first, and the question is to what extent are we going to defend Canadian interests against bad actors in the trading system. We're here to say China is not a market economy and should not be given market economy status, that our trade remedies need to be quicker, better."

chthompson@postmedia.com (mailto:chthompson@postmedia.com)

Windsor Flyers



Comments

We encourage all readers to share their views on our articles and blog posts. We are committed to maintaining a lively but civil forum for discussion, so we ask you to avoid personal attacks, and please keep your comments relevant and respectful. If you encounter a comment that is abusive, click the "X" in the