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Public Comments of Nucor Corp. on
The Marking Harmonization Act of 2002 (HR 4128)
House Committee on Ways and Means

These comments are submitted by Nucor Corp. pursuant to the advisory from the Committee on Ways and Means, dated May 3, 2002, regarding comments on technical corrections to U.S. trade laws. Nucor Corp. is the largest producer of steel in the United States. Nucor opposes enactment of the Marking Harmonization Act of 2002, HR 4128. The bill does not serve any positive purpose, and could result in U.S. consumers being misled as to the actual origin of certain steel products.

The proposed measure would allow an importer of flanges or butt welding fittings made of carbon, alloy or stainless steel to remove the country of origin markings on such products if they make certain very minor modifications to the products. The alterations that would allow a change in country of origin marking are far less significant than those that would otherwise constitute a “substantial transformation” of the imported article for customs purposes. By allowing importers to remove the country of origin markings on imported articles after performing only minimal further processing, the bill could prevent U.S. consumers from knowing the true origin of the merchandise. The bill would also create an unfortunate precedent by allowing a change of country of origin marking following

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operations in the United States that do not significantly change either the nature or the value of the imported merchandise. For these reasons, Nucor Corp. urges that H.R. 4128 not be enacted.

Respectfully submitted,

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