

To my knowledge, there are no domestic producers of standard grade ferroniobium. Thus, there will be no adverse impact on any U.S. producer resulting from passage of H.R. 5468.

U.S. consumers of standard grade ferroniobium, principally the U.S. steel industry, are placed at a competitive disadvantage when compared to their foreign competitors who do not pay this same duty.

Some years ago, in part due to the efforts of Reference Metals, the duty on standard grade ferroniobium was suspended. The savings which Reference Metals received as a result of that suspension was passed on to its customers in the United States, helping to make them more competitive in the worldwide steel market.