

**Remarks for the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations  
Subcommittee Member Day**

**Congressman Peter J. Visclosky**

**March 26, 2019**

I would like to thank Chairman Serrano, Ranking Member Aderholt, and all the members of the Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee for holding today's hearing and working hard to ensure that American taxpayer dollars are effectively and efficiently invested in our nation's human capital and economic infrastructure.

It remains my top priority to ensure that American workers and their jobs are protected from illicit trading practices of foreign countries. The U.S. International Trade Commission or ITC is vital to this end. In their budget justification released independently as mandated by U.S. law, the ITC requested \$101 million for carrying out their critical functions. I would note that Office of Management and Budget made their own request for the ITC of \$91.1 million, far below the ITC's request. I urge the Subcommittee to use the ITC's independent budget justification and fund the ITC at \$101 million for Fiscal Year 2020.

I frequently testify at ITC hearings in support of enacting trade remedies to ensure our domestic producers can compete on a level playing field with foreign producers. Pervasive dumping and subsidizing by our foreign competitors are violations of U.S. trade law and continue to leave our domestic industry struggling to compete. The ITC ensures that each case arguing material injury is expertly investigated and judiciously determined.

I would like to highlight a few specific tasks that I believe justify the request. In Fiscal Year 2020, the ITC will need additional resources to conduct analysis required by the American

Manufacturing Competitiveness Act of 2016. This law requires that the ITC collect petitions to suspend or reduce certain tariffs in the forthcoming Miscellaneous Tariff Bill. The ITC then recommends to House and Senate Committees which petitions be included in the final bill text. With this process beginning in October 2019, additional funding is needed to ensure the process moves through completion.

Further, the recent Section 232 and three stages of Section 301 tariffs have required that the ITC revise the Harmonized Tariff Schedule, or HTS, of the United States 13 times this year, as compared to 3 times in a typical year. As the ITC is statutorily required to maintain the HTS database, as well as serve as a conduit to convey any revisions to private companies for implementation and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection for enforcement, the ITC needs additional funds.

Finally, the ITC needs to update and modernize their information technology infrastructure, hire additional personnel, and manage increasingly high unfair trade caseloads. I urge the Subcommittee to ensure the ITC is fully funded at \$101 million for Fiscal Year 2020, so that it can perform its investigative work, as well as judiciously and expeditiously resolve cases.

Second, I testify here today in support of the implementation of the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act of 2018. Passed into law in December 2018, this law requires that the National Archives and Records Administration collect, prepare, and publish civil rights cold case records kept at the Department of Justice for public disclosure, as well as establish an independent review board of private citizens to review the files.

As I understand it today, there remains a question about which Appropriations Subcommittee, whether this Subcommittee or Financial Services and General Government, will be responsible

for this new funding, but I urge a thoughtful resolution to ensure this law is fully funded in Fiscal Year 2020.

The impetus of this law was a New Jersey high school class, who researched this issue, drafted legislation, and lobbied Capitol Hill to usher the legislation through to enactment into law. I was inspired by these young people, and as a public servant, I am continually reminded of the responsibilities that have been entrusted to each of us to ensure people everywhere receive justice.

For too long, families of lynching and other hate crime victims have gone without information regarding crimes against their ancestors. I remain deeply cognizant of the legacy of racial inequality that continues to be present today in the United States, and I believe that we should do everything in our power to confront and address the suffering caused by racial terror and violence.

In an extensive report, the nonprofit Equal Justice Initiative found evidence of over 4,400 racially-motivated lynchings between 1877 and 1950. However, racially-motivated lynching continued to occur throughout the 1960s, and the last recorded lynching in the United States happened in 1981 in Mobile, Alabama.

While states had jurisdiction to prosecute these acts of murder, many perpetrators of this despicable violence did not face justice because states refused to act, tacitly encouraging further racism and violence. The failure to address lynching is one of the most shameful chapters in the history of the United States. Addressing our past is essential to bringing justice to victims and their families and preventing future racially-motivated crimes.

I thank the Subcommittee for allowing me to testify today, and I urge the Subcommittee to make it my priority to ensure the ITC and the Civil Rights Cold Case Records Collection Act are properly funded in Fiscal Year 2020.