

ISRI 2023 Fly-in Talking Points

Recognition of the Recycled Materials Industry as Essential

THE ASK:

- Sign the bipartisan letter co-authored by Representative David Joyce (R-OH) and Senator Frank Pallone (D-NJ) to the Department of Homeland Security Committee requesting the Department of Homeland Security and the Chair of the National Economic Council to reinstate the recycled materials industry as an essential industry.

Topline Message

- Recycled materials are everywhere, from the roads we drive on (recycled rubber) and the cars we drive (recycled steel) to the wires and beams in our homes and offices (recycled copper and steel) and the boxes that bring consumer goods and food to households and offices (recycled paper). Manufacturers have become reliant on high-quality recycled materials as part of a stable, secure, and sustainable supply chain.
- Recycled materials are a critical part of our nation's move towards decarbonization and electrification, given the energy savings associated with the use of renewable materials in place of extracting natural resources.
- The U.S. federal strategy on creating a reliable and secure supply of critical minerals includes increased recycling as one of its pillars, recognizing the essential function of recycling to our nation's security.

Who We Are

- ISRI members are part of the global supply chain and a stable and secure source of renewable materials for manufacturing.
- Recycled metal, paper, plastics, and other materials produce the rebar, wiring, tubing, transportation, packaging, and other key products that are needed for everything from construction of new buildings and infrastructure to the manufacture of automobiles, appliances, hospital beds, ventilators, toilet paper and other essential supplies needed to keep Americans safe and the economy running.
- Examples of the dependency of manufacturing on recycled materials abound -- 70% of all U.S.-produced steel and stainless steel is made from recycled steel, while more than 75% of U.S. paper mills depend upon recycled paper for their daily production needs.
- Additionally, highlight how we're good for the planet, good for business, and good for our community.

Why it Matters?

- In 2020, the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) immediately designated recycling as an essential part of the supply chain for critical manufacturing but recently omitted recycling from this important designation.
- It is unclear why CISA removed recycling as an essential industry considering our vital role in the manufacturing supply chain. It is assumed that CISA did not fully understand recycling's important role.
 - Recycling has become a non-partisan issue especially as Republicans and Democrats appreciate either the environmental or the manufacturing benefits. Restoring recycling as an essential industry within CISA should enjoy strong bipartisan support.
 - Supply chain disruptions remain a concern, especially with the continued war in Ukraine and domestic transportation challenge.