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customers to ensure we achieve the desired benefits," Newport said.

He added that the industry also supports the Administration's proposal for making significant investments in infrastructure, recommending that it include upgrades to "the old and outdated electrical grid system." AK Steel is the sole domestic producer of electrical steel, which is among the most energy efficient in the world and is used in power transformers.

Newport reiterated that, while conditions in the steel industry have improved, "trade threats remain."

"Imports continue to take about 26% of the U.S. market share - well above historical levels. Additionally, we are seeing substantial imports come in from countries not named in the trade cases. Meanwhile, domestic raw steelmaking capacity utilization has remained depressed with current levels still below 75% and thousands of employees still on layoff and over 14,400 jobs have been lost in the steel industry since the beginning of 2015. As such, we encourage the Administration and Congress to be vigilant - to take actions to spur our economy and manufacturing in the U.S., to continue the pursuit of strong trade enforcement and aggressive trade diplomacy, and to enact legislation to further address unfair foreign trade practices," Newport concluded.

AISI applauds Presidents executive action on trade

Thomas J. Gibson, president and CEO of the American Iron and Steel Institute (AISI), had the following comments on the President's expected executive actions to identify and address unfair trade practices contributing to trade deficits with certain countries and improve antidumping (AD) and countervailing duty (CVD) collection at our borders:

"AISI has consistently urged that the United States take aggressive action to address trade barriers that distort global trade and international competition and harm U.S. industries, including the U.S. steel industry. The executive orders provide key guidance on that path, especially with regard to increased enforcement and an enhanced look at AD/CVD duty collection at our borders. We are pleased that the president and his team remain committed to leveling the playing field for American manufacturing, and we look forward to continuing the steel industry's strong role in working with Administration to combat these unfair practices and ensure a fair and competitive global trade arena."

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