

RESOLUTION NO. 2001-20  
OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF  
LAPORTE COUNTY

WHEREAS, the Steel Industry in Northern Indiana has undergone and continues to face catastrophic conditions, and

WHEREAS, the LTV Steel Corporation (LTV) was the first steel company qualified as a supplier to all foreign-owned automotive plants operating in the United States and was the largest producer of carbon electrical steels and electrolytically galvanized steel sheets, and

WHEREAS, LTV was the second largest producer of ultralow carbon steels and the third largest producer of tin mill products, and

WHEREAS, on November 20, 2001, The LTV Corporation filed motions in the U.S. Bankruptcy Court to implement an Asset Protection Plan (APP), reject labor agreements and take other actions necessary to idle its integrated steel operations and prepare the facilities for sale, and

WHEREAS, LTV Corporation said these actions are necessary because they no longer have sufficient liquidity or sources of other capital to operate the integrated steel facilities, and

WHEREAS, the (APP) calls for the immediate cessation of steel-making at Cleveland and Indiana Harbor, following court approval, and

WHEREAS, the LTV Corporation's Indiana Harbor Works (IHW) steel complex, produces 3.7 million tons or about 43% of LTV Steel's raw steel production and was the second largest domestic producer of flat rolled steel, and

WHEREAS, as a result the (IHW) complex will face more than 2,000 layoffs and the ripple effect of LTV's closing will mean the loss of as many as 10,000 other jobs as the impact spreads, and

WHEREAS, not only is Northern Indiana hit by the (IHW) closing, but in addition, Bethlehem Steel Corporation, which also operates a steel mill in Northern Indiana has also filed for bankruptcy, and

WHEREAS, in 1962, Bethlehem announced it will build a major integrated steel plant in Burns Harbor, Ind., the most ambitious single project in its history to produce sheet and plate steel for the fast-growing Midwest market, and

WHEREAS, Bethlehem Steel Corporation is the nation's second largest integrated steel producer with revenues of about \$2.6 billion and shipments of 6.1 million tons of steel products for the first nine months of 2001, and

WHEREAS, Bethlehem Steel's principal operations include, the Burns Harbor Division which, today is Bethlehem's largest, most efficient plant with 5.3 million tons of capacity, and

WHEREAS, on October 15, 2001, Bethlehem Steel Corporation, the second-largest integrated steel manufacturer in the nation, announced today that it has filed a voluntary petition under Chapter 11 of the Federal Bankruptcy Code in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York, and

WHEREAS, the entire domestic steel industry is suffering from the onslaught of record steel imports since 1998, resulting in over 20 prior bankruptcy filings, and

WHEREAS, Bethlehem's and LTV's job losses are on top of 1,400 jobs to be cut by Delphi Automotive in Anderson and Kokomo, all of which puts Indiana and in particular, Northern Indiana, in a very difficult position, and

WHEREAS, the recent filing of Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection by Bethlehem Steel Corporation and possible Chapter 7 bankruptcy filing, in addition, to the complete shut down of LTV's Indiana Harbor Works have dealt a devastating blow to Northern Indiana, and

WHEREAS, the Steel Industry has been the backbone of this region for over half a century, and

WHEREAS, many other industries, such as trucking, shipping, and utilities have already felt and will continue to feel the after shock of the recent events in the Steel Industry, and

WHEREAS, these industries are all intertwined into the economies of Lake, Porter, and LaPorte County, and

WHEREAS, the (IHW) complex employs approximately 4,900 citizens of LaPorte County who will be directly effected by its closure and numerous citizens of the County have already and continue to be effected by the events at Bethlehem Steel, and

WHEREAS, there are numerous other citizens of LaPorte County who will suffer because their direct/indirect connection to the Steel Industry, and

WHEREAS, LaPorte County itself has suffered numerous job losses due to layoffs or plant closures, and

WHEREAS, over the last 12 months, Indiana's unemployment growth has been second-fastest in the nation, to 4.8 percent from 2.8 percent, neither the County nor the State can afford the Steel Industry to collapse, and

WHEREAS, the economic and the human impact of such a collapse is, in essence, incalculable, and

WHEREAS, it is the judgment of this Board, we support any type of State and Federal intervention into the Steel crisis.

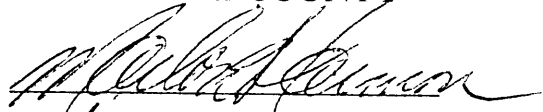
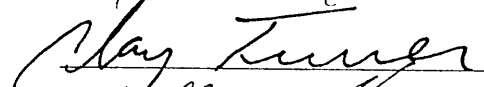

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED BY the Board of Commissioners of LaPorte County that we hereby declare that we are calling on our Local, State, and Federal Elected Officials to intervene into the Steel Crisis, and

FURTHERMORE, we are requesting immediate assistance from the State and Federal Government to avoid any further deterioration of the situation.

In sum, as it has been said, we strongly believe, "from the steel mills of Northern Indiana, to the coal mines of Southern Indiana, to the auto parts plants in the Anderson-Muncie-Kokomo triangle, it's not only the amber waves of grain, but the grease under the fingernails," which are the foundation of this great State.

Dated this 18<sup>th</sup> of December 2001.

BOARD OF  
COMMISSIONERS  
OF LAPORTE COUNTY

Attest:

