



House of Commons Debates

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Ms. Chris Charlton (Hamilton Mountain, NDP), Mr. Speaker, U.S. Steel violated the Investment Canada Act when it failed to meet employment and production commitments. Two years ago, the Minister of Industry took U.S. Steel to court for failing to keep its promises, but now another promise is all it takes for the Conservatives to drop their court case.

When is the government going to stop making backroom deals with their insider friends and start defending Canadian communities, Canadian jobs and Canadian families?

Hon. Christian Paradis (Minister of Industry and Minister of State (Agriculture), CPC): Mr. Speaker, we could hear the mayor of Hamilton has called this agreement: "A reaffirmation that the industrial sector of Hamilton is alive and well".

We have a great deal here. Its operations will be guaranteed until 2015 in both Lake Erie and Hamilton. It will be \$50 million more beyond the \$200 million already committed for capital expenditures. It will be \$3 million for the community and moreover, U.S. Steel will carry out its original undertaking to guarantee pension funding obligations for some more--

Ms. Chris Charlton (Hamilton Mountain, NDP): Mr. Speaker, the reality is that for a mere promise the government let the company off the hook and sold out Canadian steelworkers. There is no guarantee this money will be spent on addressing the issues that brought this to court in the first place, maintaining jobs and local production. Without that, where is the net benefit the Investment Canada Act is supposed to guarantee? Capital investments without job guarantees are a win for U.S. Steel, but workers will continue to pay the price.

When will Conservatives stop selling out our manufacturing sector and create a real plan to save industrial jobs?

Hon. Christian Paradis (Minister of Industry and Minister of State (Agriculture), CPC): Mr. Speaker, the opposition always amazes me. U.S. Steel pledged to continue to produce steel in Canada, operate a-- it is incredible to see and it said that it will increase their capital investment in those facilities to a total of one-quarter billion dollars. The question is quite simple. What do these guys have against jobs and economic growth?