

## **Global Market Access<sup>1</sup>: ISRI Policy on Free and Fair Trade**

### **Overview:**

The scrap recycling industry is the first link in the global manufacturing supply chain and is thus dependent upon both a healthy domestic manufacturing base and access to global markets. Worldwide, more than 900 million metric tons of recyclable materials are consumed each year globally, and more than 25% of that amount constitutes cross-border trade. The need for market-based movement of scrap commodities across borders is a critical pillar to the recycling industry's success, as well as to the success of manufacturing. Recycling is an essential component of the circular economy.

Whether called “scrap,” “recyclable materials” or “secondary materials,” these materials are sustainable commodities that have value and are sold in the global marketplace according to ISRI's globally recognized specifications as a raw material that reduces the environmental impact of using virgin materials for manufacturing. More than 40% of global manufacturers' raw materials needs are met by the ready supply of recycled commodities<sup>2</sup>, and ISRI anticipates such demand to continue growing.

Scrap commodity trade is a shared responsibility. For example:

- it is the responsibility of all recyclers to export specification/commodity-grade materials that have been processed in an environmentally sound manner;
- It is the responsibility of importers to properly handle the material starting at arrival in the port of entry in adherence with environmental and labor laws;
- It is the responsibility of inspection agencies and the inspectors to be knowledgeable about the material they are inspecting; and
- It is the responsibility of governments to enforce rules and regulations.

**It is the position of the Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries, Inc. to: –**

- **Support and facilitate free and fair trade;**
- **Support trade agreements that encourage free and fair trade;**
- **Support export and import laws and regulations and encourage them to be developed in consultation with industry that are consistent with ISRI's policies, positions and globally accepted specifications;**
- **Advocate for initiatives that enable the efficient movement of commodities through the global supply chain;**
- **Support responsible scrap commodity trade;**
- **Oppose unfair or illegal trade practices, including illegal imports and exports.**

<sup>1</sup> As Adopted by the ISRI Board of Directors on January 29, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> Source: Bureau of International Recycling (BIR)