

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4802

June 26, 2012

Mr. Michael A. Bless  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Century Aluminum  
2511 Garden Road, Building A, Suite 200  
Monterey, California 93940

Dear Mr. Bless,

I am writing today about ongoing efforts by Century Aluminum to restart its plant in Ravenswood and reinstate health care benefits for retirees. I know that you have been working hard toward these goals, and I appreciate your efforts as well as the good working relationship we have developed over the past several months.

I am concerned, however, about delays in securing the agreements necessary to reopen the plant and restore retiree health care benefits. At the time that a deal was negotiated with the retirees, it was my understanding that all conditions could be met in a few months, resulting in an initial payment into the retirees' Voluntary Employee Beneficiary Association (VEBA) in August 2012 and the reopening of the plant later this year.

Unfortunately, it now appears that one of the conditions – securing a new power rate – may not occur for several months and must be followed by a new contract with the employees' labor union and the federal court's approval of a settlement agreement relating to the retirees' lawsuit against the company. These outstanding hurdles will undoubtedly delay the reopening of the plant and the reinstatement of retiree health care benefits for months, which forces retirees to put off needed health care benefits while these issues are being resolved and creates additional hardship for a community that is looking forward to a bright future for Century Aluminum in Ravenswood.

It is my sincere hope that you will continue doing everything you can to restart the Ravenswood smelter and begin making payments into the retirees' VEBA as soon as possible. I have every confidence that under your leadership and that of your executive team, these goals can be accomplished quickly and in a way that benefits your company, employees and retirees, Jackson County, and the State of West Virginia as a whole.

If there is anything that I can do to be of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to receiving an update as to your progress on this most important matter.

Sincerely,



John D. Rockefeller IV

