

May 5, 2010

Dear Representative:

I wish to call your attention to the attached letter supporting immediate passage of a Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB) in the U.S. House of Representatives. This letter, signed by over 130 companies and associations, was sent to Speaker Pelosi, Leader Boehner and to Ways & Means Chairman Levin and Ranking Member Camp earlier today.

The MTB is one of the most important short-term actions Congress can take to preserve and expand good American jobs, cut the costs of doing business in this country, boost America's manufacturing competitiveness, and boost our manufacturing exports. American manufacturers, large and small, use the MTB's tariff suspension provisions to obtain raw materials, proprietary inputs, and other products that are not available in the United States. Without the MTB's suspension of tariffs, companies must pay duties on these imported products – which is a tax that is then passed on to consumers.

The MTB process is wholly transparent. It is vetted by a number of Federal agencies, including the U.S. International Trade Commission, the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the Office of Management and Budget. Any request for a tariff suspension that has domestic competition is rejected during the vetting process.

NAM members do not believe that the tariff suspensions in the MTB are earmarks. Further, we believe that the interpretation that House rules do not define the limited tariff benefits in the MTB as Congressional earmarks is the correct interpretation. Our manufacturing members believe that the MTB process is a transparent, bipartisan way to reduce the costs of manufacturing in America, a view I deeply share. Our competitors maintain similar programs to benefit manufacturing in their countries, and we cannot afford to add another cost disadvantage to manufacturing in America. I encourage you to support the MTB and to vote YES when it comes to the House floor.

Sincerely,

John Engler

JE/dg
Attachment

Attachment: Business Community Letter on the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill

May 5, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
H-232 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Minority Leader
H-204 Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sander Levin
Chairman
Committee on Ways & Means
1102 Longworth
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Camp
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways & Means
1139E Longworth
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader Boehner, Chairman Levin and Ranking Member Camp:

The time has come for action on the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB). On behalf of the hundreds of companies and their employees who rely on the MTB for relief from unnecessary tariff costs that hinder U.S. manufacturing and other U.S. businesses we ask your support for its immediate passage. Further delays in the consideration of the MTB will only exacerbate our economic situation and threaten further erosion of jobs in the United States.

The MTB typically consists of hundreds of individual duty suspension provisions on inputs and other products not produced or otherwise available domestically. Each proposed duty suspension is subject to a meticulous and non-partisan vetting process to ensure that no domestic producers of the affected product exist. The U.S. International Trade Commission, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, the Office of Management and Budget - in addition to the House and Senate committees of jurisdiction - all collaborate to review every bill. Moreover, this process is perhaps the most transparent used by Congress. Each proposal is subject to public comment periods both during the executive branch vetting process and again before the House Ways & Means Committee considers the omnibus MTB.

The last MTB, passed by Congress in 2006 has expired. As a result, manufacturers and businesses of all sizes across the country now face higher tariffs on inputs and other products not otherwise available in the United States. These higher costs translate to lost revenue and lower wages. In fact, the MTB has been estimated to support more than 90,000 U.S. jobs and \$3.5 billion in GDP growth. The cost-savings achieved by the MTB allow U.S. manufacturers and businesses to maintain competitive operations, invest in new facilities, re-train workers, and preserve our manufacturing base. In short, the enactment of the MTB, including new duty suspensions that have been fully vetted, is vital to the U.S. economy.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

3M Company
5.11 Technical
adidas Group
AH Schreiber
Air Products
American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)
American Automotive Policy Council
American Chemistry Council
American Coatings Association
American Composites Manufacturers Association
American Fiber Manufacturers Association
American Iron and Steel Institute
American Lighting Association
American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition (AMTAC)
Applied Materials, Inc.
Arch Chemicals, Inc.
Arkema Inc.

Armstrong World Industries, Inc.
Association of Food Industries
Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM)
BASF Corporation
Bayer Corporation
The Bedding Group
Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Borregaard Synthesis
Bridgestone Americas, Inc.
Brooks Sports, Inc.
Buhler Quality Yarns Corp.
Business Roundtable
CAMELBAK Products, LLC
Caron International, Inc.
Cascade Designs
Caterpillar, Inc.
Celanese Corporation
Cellular Technologies
Church & Dwight Co., Inc
Coalition of New England Companies for Trade (CONNECT)
Coats North America
ColorChem International Corp.
Columbia River Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association
Corning Incorporated
CropLife America
Custom Brokers & Forwarders Association of Northern California
Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association of Washington State
Deckers Outdoor Corporation
The Dow Chemical Company
DuPont
Eastern Mountain Sports
Eastman Chemical Company
EC Pigments
Emergency Committee for American Trade (ECAT)
ESCO Company LLC
Exxel Outdoors Inc.
Fanwood Chemical, Inc.
Fashion Accessories Shippers Association (FASA)
Firmenich Inc.
Ford Motor Company
Fortune Brands, Inc.
FMC Corporation
General Motors Corporation
Glen Raven, Inc.
Hamilton Beach
The Hosiery Association

Hides, LLC
HMX Group
Honeywell International
INDA, Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry
International Sleep Products Association
John Deere
Josmo Shoes
Kellwood Company
Korkers Products, LLC
LaCrosse Footwear, Inc.
LANXESS Corp
LeapFrog Enterprises, Inc.
Leviton Manufacturing Co., Inc.
LG Display America, Inc.
Los Angeles Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders Association
Mattel, Inc.
Mechanix Wear
Metglas, Inc.
Michaels Stores, Inc
Milliken & Co.
MTB Coalition
Nation Ford Chemical
National Association of Manufacturers
National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO)
National Foreign Trade Council
National Spinning Co., Inc.
Nichino America
Nike
NuFarm Americas, Inc.
Oboz Footwear
Outdoor Industry Association
Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders, Inc.
Patagonia, Inc.
PPG Industries
p r A n a
Prestige Apparel Inc.
Procter & Gamble
Quality Colors, LLC
Reebok
Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA)
R.G. Barry Corporation
Robertson Harness
Rockport
Rocky Brands, Inc.
Samuels International Inc.

San Diego Customs Brokers Association
S.C. Johnson & Son, Inc.
Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates (SOCMA)
Society of Glass and Ceramic Decorated Products
Solutia Inc.
Solvay Solexis
Sony
SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association
Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association
Sun Chemical
Symrise Inc.
Syngenta
Target
Tariff Action Coalition
TaylorMade-adidas Golf
The Timberland Company
Tosoh USA, Inc.
Toy Industry Association
Tuscarora Yarns, Inc.
Unifi, Inc.
United Color Manufacturing
U.S. Association of Importers of Textiles and Apparel, USA-ITA
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Valent Inc.
VF Corporation
Vita Nonwovens
Warren Corporation
Whirlpool Corporation
W.L. Gore and Associates
Zeon Chemicals L.P.