

January 28, 2010

The Honorable Charles Rangel  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Dave Camp  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Ways and Means  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sander Levin  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means,  
Subcommittee on Trade  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Ways and Means,  
Subcommittee on Trade  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rangel, Chairman Levin, Ranking Member Camp and Ranking Member Brady:

On behalf of the business community, thank you for the efforts you have taken to ensure the swift consideration of a Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB) this year. As you know, the MTB enables companies to realize duty savings on products not made or otherwise available in the United States. The MTB is a valuable tool that U.S. manufacturers utilize to reduce unnecessary overhead expenses and increase U.S. industry's competitiveness in the global marketplace.

We understand that your staff members have been in close consultation with their counterparts in the Senate to prepare for the consideration of a MTB package which consists of duty suspension extension provisions and other pending tariff legislation. Since most duty suspension provisions expired on December 31, 2009, U.S. manufacturers are facing increased tariffs on these inputs and components. This disadvantages U.S. manufacturers and has a direct impact on their job sustainability and job creation efforts. Therefore, we respectfully encourage the Committee to complete its work quickly on this MTB package so that both the House and the Senate can consider and approve the legislation without delay.

We also ask that extension provisions included in this MTB package be enacted retroactively, to January 1, 2010. By doing so, the Committee would preserve the business cost-savings intended by the MTB and provide manufacturers with the consistency needed to implement their business plans successfully. This issue is not without precedence. In fact, the MTB that was approved by Congress during the 108th Congress was applied retroactively (Sec. 1457, H.R. 1047). Particularly in these difficult economic times, the slightest costs savings can make a significant difference for a company's bottom line.

Thank you for your consideration. We appreciate your efforts in this regard, and we look forward to working with you and your staffs on the MTB and other important legislation designed to strengthen our domestic economy and enhance the competitiveness of U.S. manufacturing.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association  
American Chemistry Council  
Emergency Committee for American Trade (ECAT)  
Manufacturing Tariff Bill (MTB) Coalition  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Foreign Trade Council  
Tariff Action Coalition  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

CC: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker  
The Honorable John Boehner, Minority Leader

January 28, 2010

The Honorable Max Baucus  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Baucus and Ranking Member Grassley:

On behalf of the business community, thank you for the efforts you have taken to ensure the swift consideration of a Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB) this year. As you know, the MTB enables companies to realize duty savings on products not made or otherwise available in the United States. The MTB is a valuable tool that U.S. manufacturers utilize to reduce unnecessary overhead expenses and increase U.S. industry's competitiveness in the global marketplace.

We understand that your staff members have been in close consultation with their counterparts in the House of Representatives to prepare for the consideration of a MTB package which consists of duty suspension extension provisions and other pending tariff legislation. Since most duty suspension provisions expired on December 31, 2009, U.S. manufacturers are facing increased tariffs on these inputs and components. This disadvantages U.S. manufacturers and has a direct impact on their job sustainability and job creation efforts. Therefore, we respectfully encourage the Committee to complete its work on this MTB package quickly so that both the House and the Senate can consider and approve the legislation without delay.

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National Association of Manufacturers  
National Foreign Trade Council  
Tariff Action Coalition  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

CC: The Honorable Harry Reid, Senate Majority Leader  
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Senate Republican Leader