

July 13, 2015

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sander Levin
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Ryan and Hatch and Ranking Members Levin and Wyden:

As representatives of tens of thousands of small, medium and large manufacturers, retailers and other businesses throughout the United States, our organizations commend the inclusion of the “American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act of 2015” as Title VIII of the Senate-passed Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act (H.R. 644), which would establish a new miscellaneous tariff bill (MTB) process to eliminate unnecessary taxes on imported inputs and products not available domestically. To boost the competitiveness of our industries and correct longstanding distortions in the U.S. tariff code, we strongly urge you to include provisions in the conference report to H.R. 644 that will provide for a transparent, objective, predictable and regularized process for Congress to consider and enact MTBs.

Our associations have long supported bipartisan and bicameral efforts to pass MTBs, which correct on a temporary basis distortions in the U.S. tariff code by eliminating duties on imported products for which there is no or insufficient domestic production and availability.

While Congress had effectively addressed these distortions through the enactment of MTBs with strong bipartisan support for three decades, Congress has not renewed MTBs since the U.S. Manufacturing Enhancement Act in 2010 expired at the end of 2012. Since then, businesses throughout the country have faced an annual \$748 million tax increase on manufacturing and the U.S. economy has suffered a \$1.875 billion economic loss, according to an analysis by the National Association of Manufacturers.

As a result, small, medium and large manufacturers in industries ranging from agriculture and electronics to textiles, chemicals and beyond have seen their costs go up for inputs not produced in the United States, undermining American competitiveness and the ability of these companies to retain and create manufacturing jobs in the United States.

Title VIII of the Senate-passed version of H.R. 644 would allow each chamber to set up processes consistent with their rules, and would not require the introduction of legislation by Members of Congress. It would require an intensive review of domestic availability by the U.S. International Trade Commission and input from the Executive Branch before Congress undertakes its role in assembling and considering a final MTB package.

Action on a new MTB process is long overdue and the time to move forward with a new process is now. We strongly urge you to eliminate distortions in the U.S. tariff code that are undermining the competitiveness and job-growth of our industries by including as part of the final conference report to H.R. 644 provisions to enable a new MTB process to move forward.

Sincerely,

Aeronautical Repair Station Association
Aerospace Industries Association
Agricultural Retailers Association
American Apparel & Footwear Association
American Association of Exporters and Importers
American Automotive Policy Council
American Chemistry Council
American Cleaning Institute (ACI)
American Composites Manufacturers Association
American Fiber Manufacturers Association
American Seed Trade Association
American Sportfishing Association
American Wire Producers Association (AWPA)
America's Natural Gas Alliance
AMT - The Association For Manufacturing Technology
Associated Equipment Distributors
Association of Food Industries
Color Pigments Manufacturers Association, Inc.
Consumer Electronics Association
CropLife America
Fabricators and Manufacturers Association, International
Footwear Distributors & Retailers of America (FDRA)
Global Cold Chain Alliance
Halloween Industry Association
INDA, Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry
Independent Lubricant Manufacturers Association
Industrial Fasteners Institute

Industrial Minerals Association - North America
International Dairy Foods Association
International Sleep Products Association
Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association (JPMA)
Manufacturing Tariff Bill (MTB) Coalition
Metal Powder Industries Federation
National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)
National Council of Textile Organizations
National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)
National Foreign Trade Council
National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Retail Federation
NPES, The Association for Suppliers of Printing, Publishing and Converting Technologies
Outdoor Industry Association
Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates (SOCMA)
SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association
Sports & Fitness Industry Association
Tariff Action Coalition
The Aluminum Association
Toy Industry Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Fashion Industry Association
United States Council for International Business
Vinyl Institute
Window and Door Manufacturers Association

Cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Finance
Members of the House Committee on Ways and Means