

April 21, 2015

The United States Congress
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Members of Congress:

With the introduction of the “American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act of 2015” by Sens. Rob Portman (R-OH), Claire McCaskill (D-MO), Pat Toomey (R-PA), and Richard Burr (R-NC), manufacturers throughout the United States finally see a path forward for the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB). We urge you to support action on this important legislation to improve America’s global competitiveness.

As detailed in this legislation, the outdated U.S. tariff code continues to impose tariffs on imported products for which there is no or insufficient domestic availability. This distortion places an unnecessary and anti-competitive tax on manufacturers, retailers, and other businesses in the United States that rely on imported products not available domestically.

While Congress had traditionally worked on a bipartisan and bicameral basis for three decades to correct these distortions on a temporary basis, Congress has failed to act for over three years. Congress last eliminated these distortive tariffs by enacting the U.S. Manufacturing Enhancement Act in 2010 with strong bipartisan support in both the House and Senate. Yet, the tariff relief provided by that legislation expired at the end of 2012. Each subsequent day, small, medium and large manufacturers in industries ranging from agriculture and electronics to textiles, chemicals and beyond have been paying tariffs on inputs necessary to manufacture their products, undermining their competitiveness, raising their costs and hurting their ability to retain and create manufacturing jobs in the United States. According to economic analysis conducted by the National Association of Manufacturers, the failure to renew MTB legislation since its expiration in 2012 has resulted in an annual \$748 million tax hike on manufacturing in the United States and a \$1.875 billion economic loss to the U.S. economy.

Passage of the “American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act of 2015” would create a transparent, objective, predictable and regularized process for Congress to consider and enact MTBs to correct these longstanding distortions in the U.S. tariff code. The elimination of tariffs on imports of products not available in the United States would enhance the competitiveness of manufacturers throughout the United States and support greater growth and jobs in the U.S. economy.

We urge you to act expeditiously to consider and approve the “American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act of 2015.” Once these important MTB process changes become law, we look forward to working closely with Congress, the U.S. International Trade Commission, the U.S. Department of Commerce and other stakeholders to ensure that the distortions in the U.S. tariff code are eliminated or reduced as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

cc: The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate
The Honorable Harry Reid, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate
The Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives

ABB Inc.	Boulder Scientific Company
Acme Food Sales, Inc.	Brady Corporation
Acuity Brands	Brunswick Corporation
Aerospace Industries Association (AIA)	Buhler Quality Yarns, Corp.
AGCO Corporation	Bulman Products, Inc.
Agrusa, Inc.	C. H. Robinson
Air Liquide USA LLC	Camerican International
Air Products and Chemicals, Inc.	Carl Zeiss, Inc.
Albaugh, LLC	Caterpillar Inc.
Altec	Cellular Technology International
Altrius Group, LLC	Charkit Chemical Corporation
Ameren	Chemcut
American Apparel & Footwear Association	Cleaning Technologies Group
American Association of Exporters and Importers	Coalition of New England Companies for Trade
American Automotive Policy Council (AAPC)	Consolidated Fibers
American Axle & Manufacturing	Council of Industry of Southeastern New York
American Chemistry Council	CropLife America
American Composites Manufacturers Association	Cummins Inc.
American Fiber Manufacturers Association	Dana Holding Corporation
American Woolen Company, Inc.	Deere & Company
America's Natural Gas Alliance	Domtar
Amsyn Incorporated	Draper, Inc.
AMT - The Association For Manufacturing Technology	DuPont
Amway	Eastman Chemical Company
Archer Daniels Midland Company	Electronic Components Industry Association
Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Element TV Company, LP
Arkema Inc.	Emerson
Ashland Incorporated	ESCO Company, LLC
Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM)	Fashion Accessories Shippers Association (FASA)
Association of Food Industries	Firmenich Incorporated
Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers	FMC Corporation
Atalanta Corporation	Food Specialties Trading LLC
Automated Industrial Machinery, Inc.	Formula Boats
Avatar Corporation	Fruit of the Loom, Inc.
BASF Corporation	Georgia Association of Manufacturers
Bayer Corporation	Gigi & Associates Corp.
Bayer CropScience	Glen Raven, Inc.
Borges USA	GOLD PLUM (USA) INTL
	Gowan Company LLC
	Hamilton Beach Brands, Inc
	Honeywell
	ICF Mercantile, LLC

INDA, Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry
Indiana Manufacturers Association
Industrial Fasteners Institute (IFI)
Industrial Minerals Association - North America
Ingersoll Rand Company
International Dairy Foods Association
International Freight Services
International Sleep Products Association
Iofina Chemical
JBH Intertrade
JCM Industries, Inc.
Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association
Karsten Manufacturing Corporation (and subsidiaries PING and Dolphin, Incorporated)
L&L Products, Inc.
Lanxess Corp.
Lasko Products Inc
LeapFrog Enterprises, Inc.
Leviton Manufacturing Co., Inc.
Liberty Pumps
Lord Corporation
M.J. ROSENMAYER COMPANY
Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals
Manhasset Specialty Company
Manufacturing Tariff Bill Coalition
Manufacturing-Works
Maryland Chamber of Commerce
Materion Technical Materials
Mercantum (U.S.) Corp
Metal Powder Industries Federation
Metglas, Inc.
MILLIKEN
Mississippi Manufacturers Association
Montana Chamber of Commerce
Montana Manufacturing Council
MW POLAR FOODS
Myers Industries
Nation Ford Chemical
Nation Ford Chemical Company
National Association of Manufacturers (NAM)
National Association of Trailer Manufacturers
National Council of Textile Organizations
National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA)
National Foreign Trade Council

National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Spinning Company Inc.
Nautilus, Inc.
Nichino America
Novamont North America
NPES The Association for Suppliers of Printing, Publishing and Converting Technologies
Ohio Manufacturers' Association
Orleans Packing Company
Outdoor Industry Association
Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association, Inc.
Pearl Izumi
Pfizer, Inc.
PHT International, Inc.
Players Music LLC
PPG Industries, Inc.
Purcell International
Quality Colors, LLC
SAFE FOOD CORPORATION
Samuels International Associates, Inc.
SawStop, LLC
SC Johnson & Son, Inc.
Schilling Robotics LLC
SCHOTT Defense
Seaway Bolt & Specials Co.
SGL Group, the Carbon Company
Sierra Petro Inc
SL Industries, Inc.
Smiths Group Services Corporation
Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates (SOCMA)
Solvay
Sony Electronics Inc.
Specialty Equipment Market Association
SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association
Stellar Industries, Inc.
STERIS Corporation
Strategic HR Partners, Employers Association
Struthers-Dunn, LLC
Sun Chemical Corporation
Sunrise Commodities
Syngenta
Tariff Action Coalition
Tenneco Inc.
The Battery Center
The Dow Chemical Company
The Hemisphere Group, Inc.

The Janel Group Inc
The Kansas Chamber of Commerce
The Manitowoc Company, Inc.
The State Chamber of Oklahoma
Tigers USA Global Logistics
Tosoh USA, Inc.
Toy Industry Association
TRANSLINKS CHB
Travel Goods Association (TGA)
United Technologies Corporation
Universal Electric Corp.
Uniweld Products Inc.
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
Valent, Inc.
W.L. Gore & Associates
World Finer Foods, Inc.
Zamoyski and Company
ZIBA NUT INC.