

**Mr. Philip M. Crane/Chairman  
Sub – Committee on Trade  
House ways and means committee**

**May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2002**

**Re: Support for HR 4217 and HR 4218**

Concerning HR 4217 and HR 4218 I would like to offer my 100% support for these bills to be included in the proposed miscellaneous trade package.

The yarns represented in these two bills are co – polyamide yarns that are manufactured in Switzerland and distributed in the United States by Harodite Industries, Inc. located in Taunton, Ma. The yarns are manufacturing aids that do not become an integral part of any finished product. The yarn's makeup sets them apart and renders them non-competitive to anything produced in the United States. They contain at least 10% by weight of Nylon 12 which makes them extraordinarily unique.

The various SKU's are formulated differently to obtain various results, but they always contain the 10% of Nylon 12. They are used as separation yarns for the knitting industry to separate knit trim items and panels, that are ultimately sewn together to produce finished garments. The knitting industry in this Country has suffered tremendously since NAFTA and the increase or total elimination of various import quotas. There are currently fewer than half of the knitters that were operating in 1998 left doing business in this Country. Many of those that remain are struggling financially to stay in business. The suspension of the duties on our yarns and the subsequent price reductions would go a long way toward stabilizing what's left of the U.S. knitting industry.

The fusible and bonding yarns are used in various industries but primarily by the textile industry. They have many uses such as bonding selvage edges and other edge applications that would normally fray or unravel. The yarns are used to bond the pile to the core threads in the production of Chenille yarns and many other uses and potential uses, they add strength and provide durability to many fabrics and products by acting as a glue when melted without being seen or detected.

At the present there is only about \$250,000.00 worth of this yarn being imported into the United States per year. The present duty rate is 8.5%, even if the volumes doubled as a result of duty suspension the bills would only cost around \$40,000.00 to \$45,000.00 per year. A small price to pay that would mean an awful lot to so many.

On behalf of all employees at Harodite Industries, Inc. (aprox. 150) the United States knitting industry and all other manufacturers that use these yarns I urge you to allow Hr 4217 and HR 4218 to become part of the proposed miscellaneous trade package.

Thank you for your consideration and for allowing me this forum to voice my support for these two bills.

Kindest Regards  
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