Miscellaneous Tariff Bill

Final Disclosure Form

Part I: Type of Disclosure

This form is being submitted for H.R. 5699 as a disclosure submitted reflecting information provided through MTB public comment period and the International Trade Commission's Congressional Bill Report.

Part II: Written Statement

Member Name: Erik Paulsen

A. ☑ Is the tariff relief specified in this Miscellaneous Tariff Bill available to any entity that imports and pays duties pursuant to this tariff heading? If not, why?

Yes

Please list any known entities currently importing under the tariff heading specified in the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill, including those listed in the Preliminary Disclosure Form, ITC Congressional Bill Report, and any public comments: (if additional space is required, please attach with this form)

Knitcraft Corporation

B. ☑ Does the tariff relief specified in this Miscellaneous Tariff Bill benefit downstream producers, manufacturers, purchasers, and consumers?

Yes

Part III: Financial Benefit Certification

I hereby certify that neither myself nor my spouse has a financial interest in any entity named in Part II.A above.

(Member Signature) 11/27/2012 Date

american apparel & footwear association

we wear® jobs

June 22, 2012

The Honorable David Camp
Chair
House Ways & Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

RE: Comments on 2012 Miscellaneous Tariff Bills (MTBs)

Dear Chairman Camp and Ranking Member Levin:

On behalf of the American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA), I am writing in strong support of the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB) process and, as outlined below, in support of many of the specific bills introduced as part of the 2012 MTB process.

AAFA is the national trade association representing apparel, footwear and other sewn products companies, and their suppliers, which compete in the global market. AAFA's members produce, market, and sell apparel and footwear in virtually every country around the world, including the United States. The U.S. apparel and footwear industry employs over 4 million U.S. workers who support this global supply chain in research and development, design, manufacturing, compliance, sourcing, logistics, marketing, merchandising, and retail.

As such, the MTB process has become critical for U.S. apparel and footwear manufacturers and importers alike to reduce costs on inputs no longer available in the United Sates that are used in U.S. manufacturing as well as to reduce the cost of finished footwear and apparel no longer made (or never made) in the United States for American families. Beyond these important benefits, AAFA's strong support for the MTB process is derived from the fact that, thanks in part to the very public and transparent nature of process, bills originally introduced on behalf of a few entities have in the end benefitted large swaths of the apparel and footwear industry.

Thanks to the bi-partisan efforts of the House Ways & Means Committee, the MTB process has in the last few years become the most transparent and open legislative process in Congress. That process starts with clear guidelines for submission of MTB bills, essentially that the temporary reduction or suspension of the import duties cost the U.S. government less than $500,000 in lost revenue and that the product in question is not made in the United States.

The process then enables every member of Congress, regardless of whether they are members of the House Ways & Means Committee or not, to fully participate in the process on behalf of their constituents. In order to participate, however, the member must make public that they have submitted the bill, disclose the name of the company or constituent who has requested the bill, and sign a document verifying that the bill meets the guidelines established by the Committee.

Then, in a measure that is unprecedented, all of the submitted bills are posted on the Internet in a single, well-publicized website. The public is then afforded the opportunity to comment on every single bill submitted. The Committee then posts all of the comments for public review on its website. Simultaneously, all of the bills are reviewed by multiple U.S. government agencies – the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC), the U.S. Department of Commerce, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, and others – who have relevant industry and policy expertise.

Once this vetting process is completed, the Committee would then submit a final bill to Congress for their review and approval. The provisions contained in this final bill, having survived the vetting process, are truly non-controversial and provide direct benefits to multiple U.S. businesses, U.S. workers, and U.S. consumers.

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In this year's process, AAFA believes that dozens of the bills submitted fully meet the criteria established by the Committee and provide direct benefits to multiple U.S. businesses, U.S. workers, and U.S. consumers. As such, AAFA urges the Committee to include these provisions in its final MTB legislation.

For ease of review, the bills supported by AAFA have been divided into four broad categories – footwear, apparel, travel goods and fashion accessories, and textiles.

Footwear
AAFA supports the inclusion of the following footwear-related bills in any final MTB package:

H.R. 4502	H.R. 4895	H.R. 4927	H.R. 5029	H.R. 5175	H.R. 5425	H.R. 5432	H.R. 5616
H.R. 4503	H.R. 4896	H.R. 4928	H.R. 5030	H.R. 5176	H.R. 5426	H.R. 5559	H.R. 5617
H.R. 4504	H.R. 4899	H.R. 4929	H.R. 5164	H.R. 5177	H.R. 5427	H.R. 5560	H.R. 5618
H.R. 4505	H.R. 4900	H.R. 4993	H.R. 5165	H.R. 5330	H.R. 5428	H.R. 5561	H.R. 5619
H.R. 4891	H.R. 4901	H.R. 4994	H.R. 5166	H.R. 5423	H.R. 5429	H.R. 5562	
H.R. 4892	H.R. 4926	H.R. 4995	H.R. 5171	H.R. 5424	H.R. 5430	H.R. 5564	

Apparel
AAFA supports the inclusion of the following apparel-related bills in any final MTB package:

H.R. 4973	H.R. 4983	H.R. 5173	H.R. 5191	H.R. 5557	H.R. 5637
H.R. 4974	H.R. 4984	H.R. 5189	H.R. 5192	H.R. 5558	
H.R. 4975	H.R. 4985	H.R. 5190	H.R. 5193	H.R. 5563	

Travel Goods & Fashion Accessories
AAFA supports the inclusion of the following travel goods-related bills in any final MTB package:

H.R. 5034	H.R. 5172	H.R. 5379	H.R. 5607	H.R. 5632	H.R. 5634	H.R. 5636
H.R. 5171	H.R. 5178	H.R. 5606	H.R. 5631	H.R. 5633	H.R. 5635	

Textiles
AAFA supports the inclusion of the following textiles-related bills in any final MTB package:

H.R. 3926	H.R. 4420	H.R. 4486	H.R. 4532	H.R. 4551	H.R. 5051	H.R. 5493	H.R. 5538
H.R. 3972	H.R. 4422	H.R. 4487	H.R. 4533	H.R. 4552	H.R. 5052	H.R. 5497	H.R. 5539
H.R. 4411	H.R. 4445	H.R. 4523	H.R. 4542	H.R. 4553	H.R. 5107	H.R. 5529	H.R. 5540
H.R. 4412	H.R. 4446	H.R. 4524	H.R. 4543	H.R. 4554	H.R. 5161	H.R. 5530	H.R. 5541
H.R. 4413	H.R. 4447	H.R. 4525	H.R. 4544	H.R. 4582	H.R. 5162	H.R. 5531	H.R. 5699
H.R. 4414	H.R. 4448	H.R. 4526	H.R. 4545	H.R. 4583	H.R. 5199	H.R. 5532	H.R. 5700
H.R. 4415	H.R. 4449	H.R. 4527	H.R. 4546	H.R. 4584	H.R. 5201	H.R. 5533	H.R. 5701
H.R. 4416	H.R. 4450	H.R. 4528	H.R. 4547	H.R. 4585	H.R. 5209	H.R. 5534	
H.R. 4417	H.R. 4451	H.R. 4529	H.R. 4548	H.R. 4586	H.R. 5485	H.R. 5535	
H.R. 4418	H.R. 4452	H.R. 4530	H.R. 4549	H.R. 4603	H.R. 5491	H.R. 5536	
H.R. 4419	H.R. 4453	H.R. 4531	H.R. 4550	H.R. 5036	H.R. 5492	H.R. 5537	

In conclusion, AAFA strongly supports both the MTB process as well as the inclusion of the above referenced bills in any final MTB package.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. Please contact Nate Herman of my staff at 703-797-9062 or nherman@wewear.org if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Please accept my best regards,

Kevin M. Burke

Kevin M. Burke
President & CEO

NCTO
NATIONAL COUNCIL of TEXTILE ORGANIZATIONS

June 19, 2012

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

The Honorable Sandy Levin
Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: NCTO Opposition to H.R. 5699

Dear Chairman Camp and Ranking Member Levin:

The National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO), a trade association representing the U.S. textile industry is strongly opposed to H.R. 5699. Most importantly, H.R. 5699 covers yarn of carded wool, not put up for retail sale which is already produced in the United States.

The U.S. textile industry is already facing tremendous market pressures due to unfair competition from low cost producing countries like China and Vietnam. Together these countries import more 50 percent of all textile and apparel into the United States. The textile industries in both China and Vietnam are heavily subsidized by the governments and are state owned which dramatically drives down costs and shifts market share away from the Western Hemisphere. The Western Hemisphere is the domestic industry's major trading platform, loss of market share shrinks profit margins and costs U.S. jobs.

The Miscellaneous Tariff Bill is intended to promote manufacturing and jobs in the United States by providing limited tariff relief (up to $500,000 for any specific tariff line) to domestic manufacturers who use inputs that are not available from a domestic source, not as a vehicle to vastly increase the profit margins of importers and retailers of finished goods to the detriment of U.S. manufacturers.

If our industry is forced to absorb duties on certain inputs that are no longer commercially available in the U.S. and the above product is allowed to be imported duty free it will cause serious damage to the domestic industry and further hamper our competitiveness. If this happens, dozens of plants and thousands of workers across the country will be adversely affected.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the bills included as part of the Senate Miscellaneous Tariff Bill.

Sincerely,

Cass Johnson
President

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June 22,2012

Dear Ways and Means

Jagger Brothers makes yarn from combed wool BUT any suspension of Duty on Wool yarns entering the country hurts the overall Wool Industry. I suggest this could be aimed at Faribault Mills in Minnesota or maybe some of the hat and glove knitters. All this suspension will do is reduce the chance to make the yarn in USA.

Jagger Brothers would like to have a chance to make this yarn on the worsted system and the Duty Suspension will only make the Woolen yarn less expensive and less likely to entertain worsted yarn as a possible alternative. We are against the suspension of Duty in HB 5699.

Respectfully, Scott @ Jagger Brothers Inc