Miscellaneous Tariff Bill

Final Disclosure Form

Part I: Type of Disclosure

This form is being submitted for H.R. 5700 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