

Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1104 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

To Whom It May Concern:

Late last week I was made aware of MTB HR 5783 and wanted to express by objection to the bill. I would appreciate your placing my comments in the public record.

My name is Michael Korchmar I am the 3rd generation owner and operator of my families 95-year-old manufacturing company, The Leather Specialty Company, and also serve on ITAC 13. We still own and operate factories that produce custom bags and travel goods made from textile, vinyl, plastic and leather materials in the USA and in

The Dominican Republic. We employ over 300 people and, based off of the descriptions provided, feel we are not only capable of manufacturing the products listed in this bil for which temporary duty free status is being requested, but have **IMINENT PLANS TO PRODUCE** products that are commercially competitive with these articles. We are planning to produce domestically in our Naples, Florida plant and possibly in our DR facility. (Items produced in our DR facility would already be eligible for duty free status under DR-CAFTA)

I can assure you that maintaining a US and Western Hemisphere manufacturing presence and the jobs so related has been extremely difficult over the last few decades and the last thing we domestic manufacturers need is our Government

provided duty free status on products we can produce. If companies are claiming that the products cannot be purchased domestically they are either simply not looking very hard or are unwilling to pay to have these items made outside of Asia.

Passing HR 5783 could adversely impact my company and our employees and we would ask that you communicate our objections.

Many thanks in advance for any help you can lend.

Sincerely,

Michael Korchmar
President, The Leather Specialty
Company
1088 Business Lane

Naples, Fl 34110
513 884 7228

MICHAEL KORCHMAR
mkorchmar@korchmar.com