



14 June 2012

The Honorable Dave Camp
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

Re: Support for HR 1503

Dear Chairman Camp and Ranking Member Levin:

I write to you as a representative of Zeon Chemicals L.P. to express our support for HR 1503 as part of the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB). HR 1503 would provide for the duty suspension on imports of cyclo-olefin polymers (COP) – a plastic resin—used in the United States for the production of, among other things, contact lenses and medical packaging, including blister packs for pills, vials, and syringes, as well as blood analysis and certain bio-diagnostic applications. COP is a unique product not made in the United States. Other polymers produced in the United States do not serve the same markets nor have the same chemical characteristics and applications of COP. Products made from COP possess a glass-like transparency and serve as a more pure and effective moisture barrier than other plastics.

Zeon Chemicals is a leading developer and supplier of innovative polymers, including synthetic rubber and specialty chemicals. Our company has facilities in Kentucky, Mississippi and Texas, where we employ approximately 300 people in manufacturing, research and development, sales/marketing, and corporate administration functions. Our COP polymers are produced at our factories in Japan.

HR 1503 was originally introduced during the 111th Congress by Senator Bunning (S. 2120) and Congressman Yarmuth (HR 4158). The Administration's interagency review found no valid objection to these bills and the bill's language was included as section 2517 of the MTB package (HR 6517) that was approved by the House. Unfortunately, this legislation was never considered for a vote in the Senate.

The proposed duty suspension will help reduce costs for our company, making us – and our client partners – more competitive. Zeon products are used by several US companies in the manufacturing of the product previously mentioned. Therefore, the suspension of duties on COP is of high importance not only to Zeon Chemicals but to several businesses and customers down the line throughout the United States. We urge Congress to promptly approve the MTB legislation.

Sincerely,

Brian Cail
Vice President, New Business Development
ZEON CHEMICALS L.P.