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By Electronic Mail Attachment

August 14, 2012

Robert Shaw, Senior Analyst
International Trade Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, Washington, DC 20230
Robert.Shaw@Trade.gov

Re: **Drexel Objection to House Bill: H.R. 4474/Senate Bill: S. 2519**

Dear Mr. Shaw,

I am sending you this letter on behalf of Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC (Syngenta), which develops, manufactures, and sells agricultural chemical products in the U.S., including herbicide products containing the active ingredient s-Metolachlor (which Syngenta imports).

On June 19, 2012, Drexel Chemical Company (Drexel) submitted a letter requesting "that a reduction in the duty rate on s-Metolachlor be denied or that the wording in HR 4474 be revised to include the competitive generic Metolachlor under the duty reduction." Please see below:

	<u>Bill Description</u>	<u>Comment</u>
HR 4474 <u>To reduce temporarily the rate of duty on s-Metolachlor.</u>	Cassidy, Bill	<u>(Oppose)</u>
	<u>Preliminary Disclosure Form</u>	

We strongly disagree with Drexel's letter and see no valid basis for its opposition to HR 4474 or its request to "include" Metolachlor¹ under HR 4474.

As acknowledged in its letter, Drexel "imports its Metolachlor technical grade from China... [and formulates its] end-use Metolachlor products here in the United States." Drexel does not claim to manufacture Metolachlor technical grade in the U.S.

In essence, Drexel's opposition is based on the fact that Drexel imports Metolachlor from China, and Metolachlor is not "included" in HR 4474. This opposition is not consistent with the MTB Procedures established by Congress which prohibit the reduction or elimination of duty on imported materials that have domestic production in commercially available quantities.

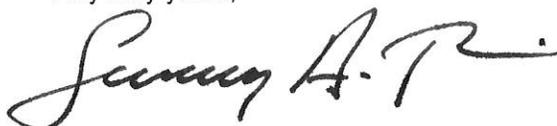
To our knowledge, Drexel does not make or sell the active ingredient s-Metolachlor or products containing s-Metolachlor. Moreover, Drexel makes no claim that a reduction in the duty rate for s-Metolachlor under H.R. 4474 would harm US domestic production. Thus, it appears that the sole purpose in objecting to H.R. 4474/S.2519 is to leverage inclusion of Drexel's Chinese manufactured Metolachlor in the bill.

Reducing the duty on s-Metolachlor under HR 4474/S 2519 will help Syngenta maintain its competitiveness against foreign manufacturers and keep the end product competitively priced in the U.S. In addition, s-Metolachlor products are formulated at facilities in St. Gabriel, LA, Omaha, NE, Webster City, IA, and Hampton, IA, providing jobs both at those locations and at locations of other formulation and packaging of end use products.

¹ Please note that Metolachlor is not the same active ingredient or chemical product as s-Metolachlor. Metolachlor and s-Metolachlor have different CAS registry numbers, isomer ratios, EPA PC codes, registrations, and manufacturing processes; and EPA has classified s-Metolachlor (not Metolachlor) as a Reduced Risk pesticide.

I appreciate your consideration. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregory A. Thies". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "G" and a long, sweeping tail.

Gregory Thies
Senior Director, Government Relations

cc: Kim Copperthite, Senior Trade Analyst, U.S. Department of Commerce
Representative David Camp, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee
Brian Reeve, Senior Regulatory Counsel, Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC