

July 25, 2012

Kristin Isabelli

Legislative Assistant

Subcommittee on Trade

Committee on Ways and Means

Dear Ms. Isabelli

I would like to express my objection to the HR5631. I realize that the time for comment closed on June 22 but was hoping you could still try to get 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 travel goods made from textile, vinyl, plastic and leather

materials in the USA and in The Dominican Republic. We employ over 300 people and are very capable of manufacturing the products listed in these bills and have the capacity to produce these items for which temporary duty free status is being requested. Based off of the descriptions provided, we believe we could produce these articles domestically or in our DR facility. (Items produced in our DR facility would already be eligible for duty free status under DR-CAFTA)

Ms. Shenai 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 needs is our Government provided duty free status on products we

can produce. If companies are claiming that products of this type 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 5631 will most certainly adversely impact my company and our employees and we would ask that you communicate our objections.

Sincerely,

Michael Korchmar  
President, The Leather Specialty  
Company  
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