Miscellaneous Tariff Bill

Final Disclosure Form

Part I: Type of Disclosure

This form is being submitted for H.R. 4891 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: Russ Carnahan

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)

Warson Group, Rocky Footwear, Timberland, Wolverine Worldwide Inc., LaCrosse Footwear, Inc., Redwing Shoe Co., Carolina Shoe Co., Weinbrenner Shoe Co.

(public comments attached)

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)

11/27/12

Date

FDRA
FOOTWEAR DISTRIBUTORS AND RETAILERS OF AMERICA

June 21, 2012

The Honorable Dave Camp
Chairman
House Committee on Ways & Means

The Honorable Sander M. Levin
Ranking Member
House Committee on Ways & Means

Re: Comments Regarding Footwear Miscellaneous Tariff Bills

Dear Chairman Camp and Ranking Member Levin:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit these comments regarding the miscellaneous tariff bills (MTBs) under your consideration.

The Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America (FDRA) and its members strongly support the miscellaneous tariff bill process in order to provide duty relief and strengthen American businesses and consumers. FDRA is the nation's largest footwear trade association accounting for approximately 75% of all footwear sales in the United States. FDRA represents the industry's leading retailers, brands and buying agents. Our U.S. footwear retailers include Foot Locker, JC Penney, Payless ShoeSource, Famous Footwear and Zappos, as well as major brand names and distributors such as Nike, PUMA, K-Swiss, Steve Madden, and Wolverine Worldwide.

As you may know, 99 percent of all footwear sold in the United States is imported. Footwear imports are subject to some of the highest tariff rates on consumer goods, with some as high as 67.5%. Duty reductions on footwear provide meaningful benefits both to the importer and U.S. consumers who must bear the bulk of the duty cost. In short, providing duty relief on non-sensitive footwear as proposed in the MTB process would support good paying U.S. jobs in design, logistics and retail, while allowing our members to provide better value to our customers.

Therefore, I present this letter in support of the following MTBs covering footwear products:

H.R. 4502	H.R. 5165
H.R. 4503	H.R. 5166
H.R. 4504	H.R. 5175
H.R. 4505	H.R. 5176
H.R. 4891	H.R. 5177

Matt Priest, President
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H.R. 4892
H.R. 4893
H.R. 4894
H.R. 4895
H.R. 4896
H.R. 4897
H.R. 4898
H.R. 4899
H.R. 4900
H.R. 4901
H.R. 4926
H.R. 4927
H.R. 4928
H.R. 4929
H.R. 4993
H.R. 4994
H.R. 4995
H.R. 5029
H.R. 5030
H.R. 5164
H.R. 5330
H.R. 5423
H.R. 5424
H.R. 5425
H.R. 5426
H.R. 5427
H.R. 5428
H.R. 5429
H.R. 5430
H.R. 5431
H.R. 5432
H.R. 5559
H.R. 5560
H.R. 5561
H.R. 5562
H.R. 5564
H.R. 5616
H.R. 5617
H.R. 5618
H.R. 5619

FDRA commends your leadership and support of the miscellaneous bill process and it is our hope that the MTB will continue to be an effective tool to relieve the unnecessary burden of tariffs on non-controversial imports.

Thank you for again for your leadership on behalf of our entire industry and the broader American trade community. Our members look forward to an expedient passage of this important legislation.

Best Regards,

R. Matthew Priest
President

June 18, 2012

Jamie Hunter
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The Honorable Dave Camp
Chairman
House Committee on Ways and Means
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sander Levin
Ranking Member
House Committee on Ways and Means
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Camp and Ranking Member Levin:

On behalf of the Rubber and Plastic Footwear Manufacturers Association, which represents the domestic footwear manufacturing industry, I object to the following miscellaneous tariff bill:

H.R. 4891 – Rep. Carnahan (6403.99.60)

This bill requests a tariff suspension for certain footwear within the part of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule that is reserved for domestically manufactured footwear.

Sincerely,
James A. Hunter
Government Relations Director
Arent Fox, LLP

RPFMA

Rubber and Plastic Footwear Manufacturers Association

STATEMENT OF
RUBBER AND PLASTIC FOOTWEAR MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION
REGARDING VARIOUS MISCELLANEOUS TARIFF BILLS

The Rubber and Plastic Footwear Manufacturers Association, which represents domestic footwear producers, has objected to the following miscellaneous tariff bills, among others: H.R. 4891, H.R. 4892, H.R. 4893, H.R. 4894, H.R. 4895, and H.R. 4896, introduced by Rep. Carnahan; and H.R. 4993, H.R. 4994, H.R. 4995, and H.R. 5330, introduced by Rep. Bonamici and the Senate versions of Ms. Bonamici's bills, S. 3055, S. 3056, S. 3057, and S. 3058, introduced by Sen. Wyden.

The eight digit Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) numbers cited in these bills are identical to HTS numbers that include footwear manufactured in the United States. RPFMA is generally concerned whenever an overlap like this occurs in the context of tariff reductions. On the other hand, our member companies currently do not manufacture footwear that is directly competitive with the footwear described in these particular bills. RPFMA has objected to other bills which would reduce tariffs on footwear that is directly competitive with footwear that is domestically produced.

RPFMA has a general concern with the impact of the MTB bills on footwear tariff negotiations occurring in the Trans Pacific Partnership (TPP) discussions. Vietnam, a TPP member state, has taken the position that the Administration should eliminate the sensitive footwear tariffs that help to even the playing field for U.S. manufacturers. Elimination of tariffs on sensitive, domestically produced products would effectively end footwear manufacturing in the United States. If Congress reduces or eliminates footwear duties generally in a Miscellaneous Tariff Bill, it could undermine the ability of the U.S. negotiators in the TPP context to provide tariff concessions on non-sensitive footwear because those tariffs will already have been reduced, at least on a temporary basis. This, in turn, would increase the pressure on the United States to reduce or eliminate tariffs on sensitive footwear, which would devastate our domestic industry and eliminate most, if not all, of the remaining footwear manufacturing in the United States. For these reasons, we continue to object to the Carnahan, Bonamici and Wyden bills.

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WARSON BRANDS

Official Licensee

CONVERSE FLORSHEIM WORK ROCKPORT WORKS

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

June 21, 2012

Dear Chairman Camp:

Warson Brands is pleased to submit these comments in support of the following bills introduced by Rep. Russ Carnahan: H.R. 4891, 4892, 4893, 4894, 4895, 4896. These bills provide a temporary duty suspension for several different styles of work footwear with a protective toe cap made of composite (non-metal) materials.

Warson Brands is recognized as a leader in occupational footwear. Located in St. Louis, Missouri, the company markets work shoes and boots under the popular brands of Converse, Rockport and Florsheim. Warson Brands shoes are designed to offer exceptional fit, comfort and safety to working feet. Warson Brands footwear is worn by police officers, swat teams, postal workers, military personnel, security guards, factory employees, construction workers and many other working men and women in America.The "composite toe caps" are particularly necessary to workers who must pass through security. They provide a high level of protection, but because they do not contain metal, the composite toe footwear is security-friendly. The composite toe caps are lightweight adding comfort to the footwear which must be worn all day long on the job.

The six bills referenced above include the following: six categories of work footwear for which we are seeking duty suspensions include the following categories having a composite toe cap:

- Men's oxford work shoes with a composite toe cap
- Women's oxford work shoes with a composite toe cap
- Men's high-top work shoes with a composite toe cap
- Women's high-top work shoes with a composite toe cap
- Men's work boots with a composite toe cap
- Women's work boots with a composite toe cap

The current duty-rate on the above products ranges from 8 ½% to 10% even though there is no U.S. production of the composite toe cap work shoes and boots to protect. Passage of duty suspension bills for these products is particularly compelling as it will make these important categories of footwear more affordable for working men and women. It is also important to note that the oxford-style work shoes for men and for women enjoyed a duty suspension for three years, but expired December 31, 2009.

We urge the committee to include these bills in the MTB package. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jim Maritz
President

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AAFA 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

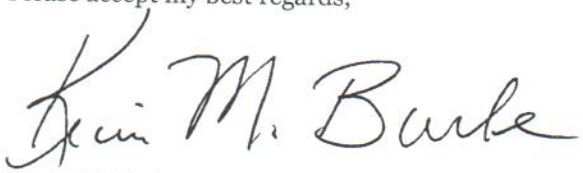
AAFA supports the inclusion of the following textiles-related bills in any final MTB package:

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
President & CEO