RODE & QUALEY

MICHAEL S. O'ROURKE
R. BRIAN BURKE
WILLIAM J. MALONEY
ELEANORE KELLY-KOBAYASHI

PATRICK D. GILL
OF COUNSEL

ATTORNEYS AT LAW
55 WEST 39TH STREET
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10018
(212) 944-7333

FACSIMILE: (212) 719-1828
WEBSITE:
WWW.RODE-QUALEY.COM
E-MAIL:
TRADELAW@RODE-QUALEY.COM

October 4, 2012

The Honorable Dave Camp
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sander M. Levin
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: H.R. 5036

Dear Chairman Camp and Ranking Member Levin:

On behalf of our client, A & H Sportswear ("A&H"), we are submitting a response to the opposition to H.R. 5036 which requests duty suspension on certain knit fabric. A & H manufactures swimwear at its factory in Easton, PA and employs 350 people. The company presently purchases the subject **printed** knit fabric from Stefan Enterprises ("Stefan") located in Garfield, New Jersey. Stefan, however, cannot produce the fabric in sufficient quantities to supply A&H's needs. The purpose in requesting this duty suspension is to afford A&H the opportunity to import the additional quantities needed to continue its U.S. manufacturing

operations. A&H remains committed to continuing to purchase this fabric from Stefan.

The Miscellaneous Tariff Bill ("MTB") as introduced covered a broad category of knit fabric. However, the International Trade Commission ("ITC") memorandum approved technical changes made to the bill. The fabric for which A&H seeks a duty suspension is:

> Warp knit or circular knit fabrics, (other than open-work figured fabrics) of nylon or of polyester of a width exceeding 139 cm, containing by weight between 5 percent or more but not over 24 percent elastomeric yarn but not containing rubber thread, weighing not more than 230 g/m^2, printed, having one or two way stretch (provided for in subheading 6004.10.00).

This description covers a very narrow category of **printed fabric** which A&H has found is unavailable in the US. We note that the ITC memorandum estimates that the Customs revenue loss for each of the next 5 years would be $615,000 under subheading 6004.10.00. We submit that any revenue loss for this specific fabric should be significantly less.

The suppliers and associations who oppose inclusion of this fabric in the MTB have ignored the fact that the fabric in addition to meeting certain specifications must be **printed.** A&H has contacted numerous U.S. companies, e.g. Darlington Fabrics, Elastic Fabrics of America, FAB Industries, Safer Fabrics, Milliken, Guilford. A&H knows that these companies do not make a **printed** fabric meeting its needs because they are solid knit fabric suppliers and do not have the capability to make prints.

The opposition to this bill without a recognition of the specific nature of the fabric and of the fact that A&H is a U.S. manufacturer that is presently using U.S. fabric undermines the purpose of the MTB to assist U.S. companies. Please contact Eleanore Kelly-Kobayashi at (212) 944-7333 or ekk@rode-qualey.com if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Eleanore Kelly-Kobayashi

Eleanore Kelly-Kobayashi

EKK/cl
Via E-mail

fe121001.k.cl.345