

December 13, 2011

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

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

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Chairman, Trade Subcommittee
Committee on Ways & Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jim McDermott
Ranking Member, Trade Subcommittee
Committee on Ways & Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Camp and Brady, and Ranking Members Levin and McDermott:

I am writing on behalf of Noble Biomaterials, Inc. to reinforce my support for H.R.4983, H.R.4984 and H.R.4985. This legislation, which is being considered for inclusion in the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB) will reduce import duties on textile-based heart rate monitors that utilize high tech textile fibers we manufacture in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

The heart sensing textile fibers that Noble Biomaterials manufactures not only changes the essential character and core function of the garments (turning them into heart rate monitors), our fibers also increase the relative cost of these items. While we believe that some consumers are willing to pay a premium for these items, we are concerned the high duty rates could prevent these heart rate monitors from gaining traction with high volume retailers, thereby reducing the amount fiber we are asked to manufacture. The fact that “traditional” chest strap heart rate monitors enter the U.S. duty free under Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) Chapter 90 only exacerbates these concerns.

The Miscellaneous Tariff Bill process will allow for a temporary suspension of the otherwise high duty rates currently assigned to these items, thereby creating additional demand for the high tech fiber we manufacture in Scranton. We hope the Committee will include these bills in the final MTB package.

Sincerely,

Jeff Keane
Chief Executive Officer