



**Statement by the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association
to the House Ways and Means Committee Supporting
Duty Suspension Bills on Certain Inflatable Balls
(H.R. 4711)**

June 22, 2012

This statement is submitted by the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association (SGMA) in connection with the Ways and Means Committee's request for public comment regarding certain miscellaneous tariff measures introduced in the House during the 112th Congress. SGMA wishes to express its strong support for this bill to extend the existing duty suspensions on leather basketballs (H.R. 4711).

SGMA represents over 500 manufacturers, retailers and marketers in the sports products industry, including the following companies engaged in manufacture and sale of the subject leather basketballs:

adidas America	Olympia Sports
Baden Sports Inc.	Rawlings Sporting Goods
Brine	Reebok Sports Inc.
Champion	Regent Sports Corp.
Champro	School-Tech
Escalade Sports*	Spalding
Franklin Sports, Inc.	Sport Supply Group
Gamemaster Athletics	Sportime International
Markwort Sporting Goods Company	Tachikara USA, Inc.
Mikasa Sports USA	Under Armour
Mizuno USA Inc.	UniSource Global Solutions
Molten USA Inc.	Wilson Sporting Goods Company
Nike, Inc.	

*non-member

SGMA members have over 3,000 business centers, plants and distribution centers that employ more than 375,000 people in the United States. The sporting goods industry generates more than \$77 billion in U.S. wholesale revenue annually and \$15 billion internationally.

Introduced on April 25 by Rep. Brett Guthrie (KY) and Richard Neal (MA), H.R. 4711 would extend existing duty suspension provisions on leather basketballs through December 31, 2015.

There is no known U.S. production of the article covered by this and there has been no opposition to it. In each instance, the bill's product scope has been defined to ensure that it meets budgetary thresholds and to ensure that it does not become a loophole for broader classes of articles.

We appreciate this opportunity to share SGMA's views with the Ways and Means Committee. Please feel free to contact us if Committee staff has any questions regarding SGMA's support for this important duty suspension bill.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Sells", written in a cursive, stylized font.

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