Statement by the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association to the House Ways and Means Committee Supporting Duty Suspension Bills on Certain Inflatable Balls (H.R. 4714)

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 all non leather and non rubber basketballs (H.R. 4714).

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 basketballs and volleyballs:

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

*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. 4714 would extend existing duty suspension on non leather and non rubber basketballs through December 31, 2015.

There is no known U.S. production of the article covered by this bill and there has been no opposition to it. 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,

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