



## Grand Northern Products

The Honorable Dave Camp  
Chairman  
Ways and Means Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington D.C. 20515

Re: H.R. 4770

Dear Mr. Camp:

As President of Grand Northern Products, Ltd. of Grand Rapids, Michigan, I am writing to register our strong support for the passage of H.R. 4770, a bill to extend and modify the temporary suspension of duty on yttrium oxide with a purity of at least 99.9%, which is currently set forth in the Harmonized Tariff Schedules of the United States as Subheading 9902.02.21. Under the provisions of this bill, the current duty suspension provided for in 9902.02.21 would be modified whereby the duty rate for imported yttrium oxide would be reduced to 2% instead of duty free.

Grand Northern Products has been an importer of yttrium oxide for many years, as yttrium of this purity level (at least 99.9%) has not been produced in the United States for some time. Yttrium oxide, along with other rare-earth minerals, plays an important part in many industrial products that are manufactured in the United States. Our business is to provide this valuable compound to U.S. companies who manufacture a variety of materials

and components that that incorporate yttrium oxide, many of which play a critical part in the aircraft and defense industries.

Grand Northern has been relying on the current duty suspension for yttrium oxide in Subheading 9902.02.21 to maintain control on costs in this difficult economy. Therefore, in the event this bill is not enacted to extend and modify 9902.02.21, there would likely be an increase of costs in the U.S. defense and aircraft sectors for products that use yttrium oxide in their manufacture.

Based upon our experience, the current duty suspension provision in 9902.02.21 has been easy for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection to administer, and the same would hold true if 9902.02.21 were modified under the terms of this bill. In summary, Grand Northern Products strongly urges that H.R. 4770 be enacted into law.

Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions on this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Michael Currie, President  
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