

Sterling Fibers supports passage of HR 5107. Sterling Fibers currently utilizes this fiber to produce specialty fibrillated fibers for friction materials, gaskets, and specialty papers. All of our customers, most of which are in the automotive industry, will benefit from the more efficient supply chain which would result from passage of this bill. We currently have competitors in both Asia and Europe in this cost sensitive market. Our cost structure and international competitive position is damaged by the continued application of the 7.5% duty on acrylic fiber tow. It is our company's most important raw material input, which unfortunately is not available from a U.S. source. Because of this, there are currently no domestic producers of this fiber to protect with this tariff. Suspension of the tariff on the special form of acrylic fiber tow we use will return us to an internationally competitive position.