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Committee on Finance
United States Senate
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Ways and Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: ***Comments in Opposition to S. 2531 and H.R. 5279, bills to suspend temporarily the duty on certain portable personal area mosquito repellents***

Dear Chairman Baucus and Chairman Camp:

On behalf United Industries Corporation ("United Industries"), a U.S. supplier of mosquito repelling products, I respectfully write in opposition to S. 2531 and its companion bill, H.R. 5279. Both bills propose to temporarily suspend the 2.3% duty currently applied under provision 8414.59.60 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States, with respect to "continuous action, self-contained, refillable, fan-motor driven, battery-operated, portable personal area mosquito repellents."

United Industries has recently begun marketing a product that fits that description, and that depends on U.S. production operations. Like the product described in S. 2531 and H.R. 5279, the Cutter Backyard Bug Control Mosquito Repellent Lantern is a continuous action, self-contained, refillable, fan-motor driven, battery-operated personal area mosquito repellent. The lantern takes the form of a plastic housing containing a battery-operated fan and replaceable plastic cups filled with a mosquito repellent. When in operation, the fan disperses the repellent through the air, providing consumers with up to 64 square feet of protection from mosquitoes.

While not all of the components of the Cutter Backyard Bug Control Mosquito Repellent Lantern are U.S.-produced, the plastic housing and refillable cup are manufactured in the United States. Furthermore, the filling and sealing of the cup and final assembly of the product are done in the United States. United Industries estimates that 130 U.S. production and assembly workers are involved in the manufacture and assembly of the Cutter Backyard Bug Control Mosquito Repellent

Lantern. These U.S. workers' jobs stand to be adversely affected by S. 2531 and H.R. 5279, which would permit duty-free entry of a competitive, all-import product.

Miscellaneous tariff bills are not meant to encourage importation of goods that would compete with or supplant U.S.-produced merchandise. Because S. 2531 and H.R. 5279 would allow for the duty-free importation of goods commercially equivalent to U.S.-produced goods, we respectfully request that these bills not be permitted to advance further in the miscellaneous tariff bill process.

Should you have any questions regarding this letter or the production of the Cutter Backyard Bug Control Mosquito Repellent, please do not hesitate to contact either the undersigned or Michael G. Pfefferkorn, United Industries' Division Vice President, Home & Garden Counsel. He may be reached at 314-683-2499.

Respectfully submitted:

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cc: Michael G. Pfefferkorn