Statement by the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association to the Senate Ways and Means Committee Supporting Duty Suspension/Reduction Bills on Certain Golf Club Heads (H.R. 5552)

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 the bill to temporarily suspend the duty on golf club fairway wood heads (H.R. 5552).

SGMA represents over 500 manufacturers, retailers and marketers in the sports products industry, including most of the following companies engaged in manufacture and sale of golf clubs:

Acushnet (Titleist)
Adidas (TaylorMade)
Boccieri Golf*
Bridgestone Golf
Callaway
Cleveland (Srixon)
H&B (Powerbuilt)
Henry-Griffits
Hippo Golf*
King Par/Orlimar Golf*
Merchants of Golf*
Mizuno USA
Nicklaus Golf
Nike
Paragon Golf*
Ping
Puma (Cobra)
SeeMore Putters
U.S. Kids Golf*
Wilson
Yonex Golf*

*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 May 8 by Rep. Brian Bilbray (CA), the bill would suspend through December 31, 2015 the applicable duty on golf club fairway wood heads (HR. 5552). This bill is a prime example of how a duty suspension bill can advance a broad range of U.S. economic interests. By suspending the duty on imports of golf club fairway wood heads, this provision will create an incentive for companies to locate or maintain golf club assembly operations in the United States. At the same time, the provision will help lower the cost to consumers of golf clubs assembled here in the United States.

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 our position on this important duty suspension bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Sells
Vice President, Government Relations
Sporting Goods Manufacturers Assn.
8505 Fenton Street
Suite 211
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Tel. 301-495-6321
Fax 301-495-6322
E-mail: bsells@sgma.com