



June 22, 2012

The Honorable David Camp
Chairman
House Committee on Ways and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sander Levin
Ranking Member
House Committee on Ways and Means
1106 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Comments of Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) on miscellaneous tariff bills H.R. 5631 (Polis), 5632 (Polis), 5633 (Polis), 5634 (Polis), 5635 (Polis), and 5636 (Polis).

Dear Chairman Camp and Representative Levin,

I am writing today on behalf of Outdoor Industry Association (OIA), the thousands of outdoor companies across the United States, and the 6.1 million Americans who are employed in the outdoor industry to comment on several miscellaneous tariff bills (MTB) that are of great importance to our industry. OIA is based in Boulder, Colorado and Washington, D.C., and is the leading trade association for the more than 4,000 manufacturers, distributors, suppliers, and retailers of outdoor recreation apparel, footwear, equipment and services. We represent the broad diversity of our membership and seek to balance the interests of outdoor companies that manufacture products in the United States and those that utilize global supply chains to bring their products to retail markets. In fact, OIA works closely with U.S. domestic producers to ensure that any trade initiative we pursue does not harm American manufacturers. The MTB is an ideal example of U.S. trade policy that supports that balanced trade agenda.

The MTB has become an increasingly important trade tool for our members and has been successfully utilized in the past to lower costs for outdoor companies, promote employment expansion in the industry, and help make outdoor products more affordable for American families. H.R. 5631, 5632, 5633, 5634, 5635, and 5636 are MTBs that would suspend duties on certain kinds of rolling travel goods, duffel bags, and backpacks that incorporate stowable backpack straps and telescopic handles. Some applicable products also incorporate zip off daypack backpacks. We strongly support inclusion of these bills in the MTB package.

OIA looks forward to working with you and members of the Committee to support swift passage of this year's MTB and is ready to answer any questions or provide any information you may need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex Boian". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a small dot at the end of the last stroke.

Alexander Boian
Director of Trade Policy

Cc:
Representative Jared Polis