



**Statement by the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association
to the House Ways and Means Committee Supporting
Duty Reduction Bill on Golf Bag Bodies (H.R. 5637)**

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 (H.R. 5637) to extend the existing duty reduction on certain golf bag bodies.

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

Acushnet (Titleist)	Ogio
Adidas (TaylorMade)	Ping
Callaway	Puma (Cobra)
Cleveland (Srixon)	Sun Mountain*
Dynamic Brands*	Tommy Armour
H&B (Powerbuilt)	U.S. Kids Golf*
Mizuno	Wilson
Nike	Zonson*

*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. Edolphus Towns (NY), H.R. 5637 would extend through December 31, 2015 the existing duty reduction provision on golf bag bodies (HTS 9902.23.24). This provision is a prime example of how a duty reduction bill can advance a broad range of U.S. economic interests. By reducing the duty on imports of incomplete golf bags, the provision has created an incentive for companies to locate golf bag assembly operations in the United States as some SGMA members have proceeded to do. At the same time, the provision has helped lower the cost to consumers of golf bags 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 reduction bill.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Sells". The signature is stylized and cursive, with the first name "Bill" and last name "Sells" clearly legible.

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