

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

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April 13, 2016

The Honorable Dave Reichert
Chairman
Subcommittee on Trade
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles B. Rangel
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Trade
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Reichert and Ranking Member Rangel:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, applauds the introduction of legislation in the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade to establish a new Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB) process to help U.S. manufacturers and other businesses maintain their competitive edge by providing temporary relief from select tariffs.

Over the past three decades, the MTB has helped manufacturers cut production costs and maintain their competitive edge by providing temporary relief from select tariffs. These are taxes applied to imported materials and intermediate products that are essential to U.S. manufacturers but unavailable domestically.

However, since the expiration of the last MTB on December 31, 2012, U.S. businesses both large and small have faced hundreds of millions of dollars in higher tariff costs. The negative impact on the competitiveness of American companies has been especially significant for small and mid-sized firms. These higher costs limit the ability of companies to expand production, hire additional workers, or invest in new cost-saving equipment.

The Chamber applauds the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade for taking up this important issue. Given its importance for preserving American jobs, the Chamber hopes this initiative to establish a new MTB process will advance swiftly.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten

cc: Members of the Committee on Ways and Means