

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NEIL L. BRADLEY
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October 24, 2017

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

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

Dear Chairman Reichert and Ranking Member Pascrell:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce strongly supports legislation providing temporary tariff relief for imported products generally not produced in the United States through the new Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB) process.

Last year, the Chamber supported the “American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act of 2016,” which established a new MTB process. This process empowers the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) to determine whether products proposed for tariff relief meet specific criteria, including that there is no domestic producer of a like product that objects to its inclusion.

Over the past three decades, MTBs have 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 are generally 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 Committee on Ways and Means for taking up this important issue. Given its importance for preserving American jobs, we hope the Committee will act swiftly to advance this legislation to implement recommendations made by the ITC in its final report.

Sincerely,



Neil L. Bradley

cc: Members of the Committee on Ways and Means