

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Sander Levin
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 22, 2013

Dear Chairman Baucus, Chairman Camp, Ranking Member Hatch, and Ranking Member Levin:

We are writing to note our deep concern about the state of the long-delayed and much-needed Customs reauthorization bill. The bill by and large exhibits broad bipartisan cooperation and compromise in pursuit of the national interest in facilitating trade and thereby promoting prosperity. However, in one title, there is disagreement that we fear threatens to derail the entire bill. We refer to Title III of the House bills, H.R. 6642 and H.R. 6656.

Our organizations represent a broad cross-section of American business that is deeply concerned that the differences over this provision, which deals with enforcement of the trade remedy laws (antidumping and countervailing duties), stand to get in the way of progress on the broader bill. We call on the Administration and Congress to deal with this issue separately, or to reach a compromise on Title III and allow the important work of Customs modernization to move forward.

We recognize the Congressional interest in preventing evasion of antidumping and countervailing duty orders. However, this aim must be balanced with the imperative to provide predictability and facilitate legitimate trade, which should not be impeded by the proposed processes. We believe that reforms in this and other areas should be balanced and sensible to simultaneously ensure enforcement and avoid unjustified impediments.

We further recognize the need for enhanced transparency in the enforcement of antidumping and countervailing duty orders. But given the complex, time consuming and expensive nature of our trade remedy laws, we call on Congress to ensure that the proposed processes do not add to the existing burden by creating potential new impediments to legitimate trade. The need for enhanced enforcement and transparency must be balanced with the economic importance of providing predictability and facilitating trade.

Given the importance of the otherwise bi-partisan customs reauthorization bill, we suggest that the Committees deal with Title III separately so as to move forward with the long-overdue

modernization in the core missions of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). We look forward to working with you to ensure a positive outcome in the 113th Congress.

Sincerely,

American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)

American Institute for International Steel (AIIS)

Association of Global Automakers

American Trucking Associations

Consuming Industries Trade Action Coalition (CITAC)

Emergency Committee for American Trade (ECAT)

National Customs Brokers & Forwarders Association of America (NCBFAA)

National Foreign Trade Council (NFTC)

National Retail Federation (NRF)

Retail Industry Leaders Associations (RILA)

TechAmerica

U.S. Association of Importers of Textiles and Apparel (USA-ITA)

U.S. Business Alliance for Customs Modernization (BACM)

U.S. Council for International Business (USCIB)