

Letter to Congress on Supporting a Miscellaneous Tariff Bill

December XX, 2017

The United States Congress
United States Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Members of Congress:

As associations and businesses of all sizes representing manufacturing and other major sectors of the U.S. economy employing millions of U.S. workers, we urge you to expedite passage of the “Miscellaneous Tariff Bill Act of 2017” (H.R. 4318 and S. 2108) to temporarily eliminate out-of-date and distortive taxes on imported products not manufactured or available domestically.

The Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB) plays an important role in the operations of domestic manufacturers as it corrects, on a temporary basis, historical distortions in the U.S. tariff code by eliminating border tariffs on imported products for which there is no or insufficient domestic production and availability. Such distortions undermine the competitiveness of manufacturers in the United States by imposing unnecessary costs and, in some cases, imposing a higher cost on manufacturers’ inputs than the competing foreign imported finished product.

While Congress had effectively addressed such distortions through the enactment of MTB legislation with strong bipartisan support for three decades, Congress has not passed an MTB since the U.S. Manufacturing Enhancement Act in 2010 expired at the end of 2012. Since 2012, businesses have paid billions of dollars of tariffs on products not even made in the United States, to the detriment of good-paying American jobs and American competitiveness.

Congress now has the opportunity to address this self-imposed tax on U.S. competitiveness. Through a transparent and thorough process created by the American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act of 2016 (AMCA), which passed Congress with near-unanimous bipartisan support, the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) scrutinized thousands of petitions for duty-relief and received input from across the manufacturing sector and from the U.S. Department of Commerce and U.S. Customs and Border Protection to determine eligibility under the AMCA requirements.

The Miscellaneous Tariff Bill Act of 2017 includes nearly 1,700 petitions that the ITC reported to Congress in August were eligible for duty-relief as products not produced or available in the United States. Our organizations strongly support passage of the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill Act of 2017, which would bolster manufacturers and other businesses in the United States, especially small- and medium-sized manufacturers, in industries ranging from chemicals, agriculture, textiles and footwear to electrical equipment, machinery and sporting equipment. Based on analyses by the National Association of Manufacturers, this legislation would eliminate import tariffs of more than \$1.1 billion over the next three years and boost U.S. manufacturing output by more than \$3.1 billion.

For more than four years, manufacturers and other businesses have been held back by out-of-date and distortive import tariffs that are costing billions of dollars. We urge Congress to act now to eliminate these distortions and improve U.S. competitiveness by moving quickly to pass the comprehensive Miscellaneous Tariff Bill Act of 2017.

Sincerely,