April 21, 2015

The United States Congress United States Capitol Washington, DC 20510

Dear Members of Congress:

With the introduction of the "American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act of 2015" by Sens. Rob Portman (R-OH), Claire McCaskill (D-MO), Pat Toomey (R-PA), and Richard Burr (R-NC), manufacturers throughout the United States finally see a path forward for the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB). We urge you to support action on this important legislation to improve America's global competitiveness.

As detailed in this legislation, the outdated U.S. tariff code continues to impose tariffs on imported products for which there is no or insufficient domestic availability. This distortion places an unnecessary and anti-competitive tax on manufacturers, retailers, and other businesses in the United States that rely on imported products not available domestically.

While Congress had traditionally worked on a bipartisan and bicameral basis for three decades to correct these distortions on a temporary basis, Congress has failed to act for over three years. Congress last eliminated these distortive tariffs by enacting the U.S. Manufacturing Enhancement Act in 2010 with strong bipartisan support in both the House and Senate. Yet, the tariff relief provided by that legislation expired at the end of 2012. Each subsequent day, small, medium and large manufacturers in industries ranging from agriculture and electronics to textiles, chemicals and beyond have been paying tariffs on inputs necessary to manufacture their products, undermining their competitiveness, raising their costs and hurting their ability to retain and create manufacturing jobs in the United States. According to economic analysis conducted by the National Association of Manufacturers, the failure to renew MTB legislation since its expiration in 2012 has resulted in an annual \$748 million tax hike on manufacturing in the United States and a \$1.875 billion economic loss to the U.S. economy.

Passage of the "American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act of 2015" would create a transparent, objective, predictable and regularized process for Congress to consider and enact MTBs to correct these longstanding distortions in the U.S. tariff code. The elimination of tariffs on imports of products not available in the United States would enhance the competitiveness of manufacturers throughout the United States and support greater growth and jobs in the U.S. economy.

We urge you to act expeditiously to consider and approve the "American Manufacturing Competitiveness Act of 2015." Once these important MTB process changes become law, we look forward to working closely with Congress, the U.S. International Trade Commission, the U.S. Department of Commerce and other stakeholders to ensure that the distortions in the U.S. tariff code are eliminated or reduced as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

cc: The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate The Honorable Harry Reid, Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate The Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives

ABB Inc. Acme Food Sales, Inc. Acuity Brands Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) AGCO Corporation Agrusa, Inc. Air Liquide USA LLC Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. Albaugh, LLC Altec Altrius Group, LLC Ameren American Apparel & Footwear Association American Association of Exporters and Importers American Automotive Policy Council (AAPC) American Axle & Manufacturing American Chemistry Council American Composites Manufacturers Association American Fiber Manufacturers Association American Woolen Company, Inc. America's Natural Gas Alliance Amsyn Incorporated AMT - The Association For Manufacturing Technology Amway Archer Daniels Midland Company Arizona Chamber of Commerce and Industry Arkema Inc. Ashland Incorporated Association of Equipment Manufacturers (AEM) Association of Food Industries Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers Atalanta Corporation Automated Industrial Machinery, Inc. Avatar Corporation **BASF** Corporation **Bayer Corporation** Bayer CropScience **Borges USA**

Boulder Scientific Company Brady Corporation **Brunswick Corporation** Buhler Quality Yarns, Corp. Bulman Products, Inc. C. H. Robinson Camerican International Carl Zeiss, Inc. Caterpillar Inc. Cellular Technology International Charkit Chemical Corporation Chemcut Cleaning Technologies Group Coalition of New England Companies for Trade **Consolidated Fibers** Council of Industry of Southeastern New York CropLife America Cummins Inc. Dana Holding Corporation Deere & Company Domtar Draper, Inc. DuPont Eastman Chemical Company **Electronic Components Industry Association** Element TV Company, LP Emerson ESCO Company, LLC Fashion Accessories Shippers Association (FASA) **Firmenich Incorporated** FMC Corporation Food Specialties Trading LLC Formula Boats Fruit of the Loom, Inc. Georgia Association of Manufacturers Gigi & Associates Corp. Glen Raven, Inc. GOLD PLUM (USA) INTL Gowan Company LLC Hamilton Beach Brands, Inc Honeywell ICF Mercantile, LLC

INDA, Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry Indiana Manufacturers Association Industrial Fasteners Institute (IFI) Industrial Minerals Association - North America Ingersoll Rand Company International Dairy Foods Association International Freight Services International Sleep Products Association Iofina Chemical **JBH** Intertrade JCM Industries. Inc. Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association Karsten Manufacturing Corporation (and subsidiaries PING and Dolphin, Incorporated) L&L Products, Inc. Lanxess Corp. Lasko Products Inc LeapFrog Enterprises, Inc. Leviton Manufacturing Co., Inc. Liberty Pumps Lord Corporation M.J. ROSENMAYER COMPANY Mallinckrodt Pharmaceuticals Manhasset Specialty Company Manufacturing Tariff Bill Coalition Manufacturing-Works Maryland Chamber of Commerce Materion Technical Materials Mercantum (U.S.) Corp Metal Powder Industries Federation Metglas, Inc. MILLIKEN Mississippi Manufacturers Association Montana Chamber of Commerce Montana Manufacturing Council MW POLAR FOODS **Mvers Industries** Nation Ford Chemical Nation Ford Chemical Company National Association of Manufacturers (NAM) National Association of Trailer Manufacturers National Council of Textile Organizations National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) National Foreign Trade Council

National Marine Manufacturers Association National Spinning Company Inc. Nautilus. Inc. Nichino America Novamont North America NPES The Association for Suppliers of Printing, Publishing and Converting Technologies Ohio Manufacturers' Association **Orleans Packing Company** Outdoor Industry Association Pacific Coast Council of Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association, Inc. Pearl Izumi Pfizer. Inc. PHT International, Inc. **Players Music LLC** PPG Industries. Inc. Purcell International Quality Colors, LLC SAFE FOOD CORPORATION Samuels International Associates. Inc. SawStop, LLC SC Johnson & Son, Inc. Schilling Robotics LLC SCHOTT Defense Seaway Bolt & Specials Co. SGL Group, the Carbon Company Sierra Petro Inc SL Industries, Inc. Smiths Group Services Corporation Society of Chemical Manufacturers and Affiliates (SOCMA) Solvay Sony Electronics Inc. Specialty Equipment Market Association SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association Stellar Industries, Inc. **STERIS** Corporation Strategic HR Partners, Employers Association Struthers-Dunn, LLC Sun Chemical Corporation Sunrise Commodities Syngenta **Tariff Action Coalition** Tenneco Inc. The Battery Center The Dow Chemical Company The Hemisphere Group, Inc.

The Janel Group Inc The Kansas Chamber of Commerce The Manitowoc Company, Inc. The State Chamber of Oklahoma Tigers USA Global Logistics Tosoh USA, Inc. Toy Industry Association TRANSLINKS CHB Travel Goods Association (TGA) United Technologies Corporation Universal Electric Corp. Uniweld Products Inc. U.S. Chamber of Commerce Valent, Inc. W.L. Gore & Associates World Finer Foods, Inc. Zamoyski and Company ZIBA NUT INC.