

May 16, 2002

The Honorable Philip M. Crane
Chairman
Subcommittee on Trade
Committee on Ways & Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Re: HR 2840 Trade Subcommittees May 2, 2000 Advisory requesting
written comments on technical correction to U.S. trade laws.**

Dear Chairman Crane,

Apollo Colors Inc. is a manufacturer of synthetic organic pigments located in Joliet, IL. We employ approximately 155 people at this facility. We, like all domestic manufacturers of synthetic organic pigments, are under considerable price pressure from competitors producing in third world countries. They have substantially lower capital, and environmental and labor costs compared to U.S. pigment producers.

Three pigment manufacturers have ceased operations in the U.S. as the result of price pressure from Indian and Chinese producers. Manufacturers in both countries are illegally classifying material exported to the U.S. for duty purposes. Complaints to U.S. Customs have not resulted in any action.

One of the key raw materials, Dichlorobenzidine, used in the manufacture of yellows for printing ink, is no longer produced in the United States. The last manufacturer permanently closed in April 2001. We respectfully request your assistance in suspending the duties on DCB. Please see the enclosed information on this topic.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and if I can provide additional information, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Thomas W. Rogers
President & C.E.O.

TWR/lkb

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