

Delta Flange & Manufacturing, Inc.

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June 5, 2002

The Honorable Philip M. Crane
Chair, Subcommittee on Trade
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
1104 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6354

Re: Miscellaneous Tariff Legislation: H.R. 4128

Dear Chairman Crane:

I write to urge the enactment of the Markings Harmonization Act of 2002, H.R. 4218, which was introduced by Rep. Kevin Brady. The legislation is of great importance to Delta Flange & Manufacturing, Inc. and many other U.S. producers of steel flanges and butt-weld pipe fittings.

At Delta Flange, we make carbon and alloy flanges, and we have built our business in reliance on the marking laws as they have been in effect for over 30 years, based on court decisions and Customs Service rulings. The Markings Harmonization Act will codify those marking laws so that we can continue to make investments with the assurance that the laws will remain stable and clear.

The flange and fitting business is highly competitive. It is necessary to continue to invest in plant, equipment, and trained workers in order to remain competitive. But investments cannot be made if the laws that govern the conduct of the business may be subject to abrupt change. The Markings Harmonization Act, by preserving the marking requirements that have long been in effect, will provide the certainty necessary to encourage investment in the flange and fitting industry.

On behalf of our company and our employees, we urge enactment of this legislation.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Kevin Battarbee

Kevin Battarbee
Vice President