

WELDBEND CORPORATION

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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:

Weldbend Corporation strongly supports the Markings Harmonization Act of 2002, H.R. 4128, which would clarify and stabilize the law regarding the marking of butt-weld pipe fittings and flanges. As one of the nation's largest producers of butt-weld pipe fittings and flanges, Weldbend has made millions of dollars in investments in plant and equipment to ensure that our 200 employees can make fittings and flanges of the highest quality and at the best value for our customers. Those investments have been made in reliance on the marking rules that have been in effect since the Customs Court decided *Midwood Industries, Inc. v. United States* in 1970. The Markings Harmonization Act would maintain those rules and prevent abrupt changes in the law that would harm our business and our workers.

Since the legislation would codify existing law, there would be no revenue losses and no administration issues. If anything, the legislation would strengthen the Customs Service's enforcement of marking laws by making quite clear the manufacturing processes that must be done in the United States in order to effect substantial transformation.

We urge the prompt enactment of the Markings Harmonization Act of 2002.
Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

WELDBEND CORPORATION

/s/ James J. Coulas Sr.

James J. Coulas Sr.

Chairman