



**Warren of Stafford**  
WARREN CORPORATION

AN AFFILIATE OF

*Ing. Loro Piana & C. s.p.a.*

June 7, 2002

U.S. Trade Laws and Miscellaneous Duty Suspension Bills  
Congressman Philip M. Crane (R-IL), Chairman,  
Subcommittee on Trade of the Committee on Ways and Means

Fax: 202-225-2610

Submitted electronically to: "hearingclerks.waysandmeans@mail.house.gov"

Dear Congressman Crane,

We are writing in opposition of H.R. 4157, which is trying to modify the definition of certain hand-woven wool fabrics. Currently hand-woven woolen fabrics of less than 76 cm in width enter the U.S. at a favorable rate of duty of 3.5 cents per pound plus 10.3%. Other woolen (carded) fabrics enter at a rate of duty of 27.2%. H.R. 4157 would remove the width restriction on fabrics that enjoy the favorable rate.

The existing favorable tariff treatment for hand-loomed woolen fabrics, has the less than 76cm width restriction that clearly delineates the fabric in order to restrict the benefit to genuinely hand-woven fabrics (Harris Tweed). We strongly oppose the proposal to allow wider fabrics to enter under this favorable treatment. Without the width restriction, there will be no way to determine that the fabric is hand-loomed, and the potential exists for very significant quantities of fabric to enter the United States which will directly compete with our domestically produced fabrics. While we believe competition is good, we currently have substantial unused production capacity and a reduction of tariff, as proposed by H.R.4157, would greatly damage our ability to compete.

Sincerely,

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