

The Honorable Philip M Crane
Chairman
Subcommittee on Trade of the Committee on Ways and Means

Date: 7th June 2002

Dear Congressman Crane,

It has come to our attention that an application (HR 4202) has been made to amend Subchapter II of the chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States by inserting in numerical sequence the following new heading: 9902.39.13 Polycaprolactam-pigment concentrate (TiO₂) (CAS Nos. 13463-67-7 and 25038-54-4) (provided for in subheading 3908.10.00), as temporarily duty free.

On behalf of Clariant Corporation I would like to strongly object to duty suspension on this chemical. Clariant has been making, and continues to make, this product in our Holden facility in Massachusetts, also in our Minneapolis facility in Minnesota. The product is of significant economic importance and suspension of duty would severely impact our facilities. There is already significant domestic competition in addition to off-shore competition with significant currency exchange advantages. As manufacturers, we would therefore request that this application for duty suspension be denied.

Yours truly,

William G. Blasius
Director of Technology, Americas
Division Masterbatches