

BRUNO SCHEIDT, INC.

71 WEST 23RD STREET • NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10010-4189

May 23, 2002

The Honorable Philip M. Crane
Chairman, Subcommittee on Trade
Committee on Ways and Means
1104 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sander M. Levin
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Trade
Committee on Ways and Means
1106 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Crane and Ranking Member Levin:

In response to the Subcommittee's request for written comments from parties interested in technical corrections to U.S. trade laws and miscellaneous duty suspension proposals, I am writing to you in support of two very important bills; H.R. 4447 and H.R. 4448. Both of these bills would suspend temporarily the duty on certain prepared or preserved artichokes (HTS 2005.90.80.00 and HTS 2001.90.25.00 respectively), thereby helping Bruno Scheidt, Inc to reduce costs incurred as a result of the high duty rates assessed on these products. Lower costs will be passed on to the American consumer.

Currently, processed artichokes imported into the United States face between 10.2% and 14.9% in duties. We import approximately \$10 Million of processed artichokes and we pay duties of approximately \$1 Million each year. There currently are no U.S. companies manufacturing processed artichokes, and artichokes that are grown in the United States are sold in the fresh market and thus are not affected by the importation of prepared artichokes!

Given that the high duties are not being justifiably assessed to protect a U.S. industry, we hope that the Subcommittee will favorably report these two bills as part of the miscellaneous trade package in the coming months. Also, the bills are designed as a temporary suspension should any U.S. manufacturing operation become established. Mr. Torricelli has introduced companion legislation in the Senate, and we therefore will be working with Senate Finance on their miscellaneous tariff bill process.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this matter, and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions on these provisions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Charles Scheidt

President

Importers Par Excellence ®