

ORIGINAL

206

DEAR SIR OR MADAME,

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11 JULY, 97

I'VE ENCLOSED A POEM THAT PERTAINS TO THE DESECRATION OF THE AMERICAN FLAG. PLEASE READ IT.

YOU MAY WONDER, WHAT DOES ^{THIS} POEM HAVE TO DO WITH MADE IN THE USA.

ITS ALL ABOUT PRIDE, PATRIOTISM, RESPECT AND TAKING CARE OF OUR OWN. THE AMERICAN FLAG MEANS A GREAT DEAL TO ME. IT ANGERS ME WHEN SOMEONE DESECRATES IT.

THE AMERICAN FLAG IS A SYMBOL OF FREEDOM. IT ALSO REPRESENTS THE BLOOD AND COURAGE OF MANY MEN AND WOMEN WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES FOR THEIR COUNTRY. TO DESECRATE THE FLAG SHOWS DISRESPECT TO THOSE MEN AND WOMEN.

TO ALLOW AN AMERICAN FLAG WITH MADE IN THE USA TO APPEAR ON PRODUCTS THAT ARE NOT MADE IN THE USA, IS JUST ANOTHER FORM OF DESECRATING OUR FLAG.

MANY PEOPLE BUY PRODUCTS MADE IN AMERICA TO SUPPORT THEIR FELLOW AMERICANS. ALSO, BECAUSE OF THE QUALITY OF AMERICAN MADE PRODUCTS. PLEASE DO NOT CHANGE THE MADE IN USA POLICY. IF YOU DO OUR FLAG WILL BE ADVERTISED ON PRODUCTS MADE ANYWHERE AND EVERYWHERE.

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PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW ANOTHER
FORM OF FLAG DESECRATION.

HAVE SOME PRIDE IN AMERICA.

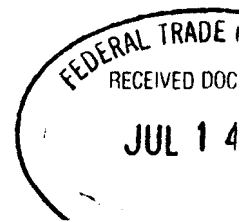
SHOW SOME RESPECT FOR OLD GLORY.

REJECT YOUR PROPOSAL OF RELAXING
THE RULE ON MADE IN USA.

THANK YOU

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JUST A SILLY OLD RAG

(ODE TO THE SUPREME COURT) By: James F. Shoup

Hey, gramps! What is this? It looks pretty worn,
It's dusty and dirty and the corners are torn.

Oh, that! Well, it once was a symbol of hope
for people to grab when they ran out of rope.
Through all of my years it served as a flag,
but today they would say, "it's a silly old rag."

How come the colors are red, white and blue?
Do they have any meaning for old folks like you?

Yes... they did at one time and we all understood
but memory fades... I can't think very good.
What each color means I can't say... I can't brag,
but... it really don't matter... it's only a rag.

But Gramps what about all of the people who died
to make sure that the flag had a safe place to fly?
I know it happened, I've read in your books
of dangers they faced and the chances they took.

The blood and the pain and the lives of those folk
were written away with one careless stroke.
So... many a person who fought for that flag
keep hidden in shame that silly old rag.
They figured if something that we held so dear
could be desecrated with no thought of fear
then WE must be fools each labeled with tags
"A DUMMY FOR FIGHTING FOR SILLY OLD RAGS"

So... Why do you keep it, if that's all it is,
all wrapped in a package away from us kids?

It's a sign of rebellion from my younger days.
I'm telling those judges I won't go their ways.
To them it is nothing but silly old rags,
but to people like me it's the AMERICAN FLAG!