

# AMTAC

American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition

[www.amtacdc.org](http://www.amtacdc.org)

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June 29, 2012

The Honorable Dave Camp  
U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sandy Levin  
U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Camp and Ranking Member Levin:

The American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition (AMTAC) strongly supports enactment of Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB) legislation in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress. Failure to pass a MTB in a timely fashion will raise production costs for U.S. manufacturers at a time when they are struggling to cope with an uncertain global economic environment.

While AMTAC is often a critic of U.S. trade policy, the MTB is one element that is actually extremely beneficial to U.S. manufacturers. The MTB is a job creator because it helps U.S. manufacturers at home and abroad by temporarily suspending or reducing duties on inputs that are not made domestically, or where there is no domestic opposition. This ultimately increases the competitiveness of their end products using those inputs.

For the U.S. textile industry, the MTB is vital to reduce costs on inputs like certain acrylic and rayon products that are no longer made in the United States for environmental reasons. It also is important for cutting costs on imports of vicuna fibers, camel hair, and certain wool products like cashmere that come from animals not indigenous to the United States. Because the MTB provides reduced cost access to these inputs, U.S. textile manufacturers are able to keep plants open that make fabrics using rayon, acrylic, and non-indigenous animal hairs.

Another reason why AMTAC strongly supports the MTB is because it is handled through a transparent process that contains important safeguards that prevents this legislation from damaging any U.S. manufacturers.

Congress, private industry, the executive branch, and the U.S. International Trade Commission thoroughly vet the MTB to make sure that no bills are included that cover products made in the United States, rendering the measure noncontroversial because no U.S. production is harmed.

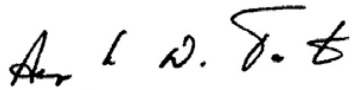
As an example of private industry participation in the vetting process, AMTAC has submitted a number of comments both in support and in opposition to dozens of MTBs to the U.S. International Trade Commission, the Department of Commerce, the Senate Finance Committee as well as your committee.

Finally, there has been confusion surrounding whether the MTB constitutes an earmark. We feel that this label is misplaced, as any producer in the United States using an input covered by an MTB can benefit from the duty reduction or suspension.

Again, we urge enactment of MTB legislation in a timely fashion. It is a critical cost reduction measure for many U.S. manufacturers, supporting domestic production and employment.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aug. L. N. T. B." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Augustine Tantillo  
Executive Director