



## MEMORANDUM ON PROPOSED TARIFF LEGISLATION of the 112th Congress

Date approved

### I. Background

Bill number:

Sponsor name:

Sponsor state:

#### Interested entity:

Name

City

State

Other bills on product (112th Congress only):

Nature of bill:

Expiration date:

Current or previous chapter 99 heading:

Retroactive date:

CAS number (if applicable):

Industry analyst:

Telephone:

Tariff Affairs contact:

Telephone:

#### Note:

1. Access to an electronic copy of this memorandum is available at [http://www.usitc.gov/tariff\\_affairs/congress\\_reports/](http://www.usitc.gov/tariff_affairs/congress_reports/).
2. In regard to the country(ies) of origin listed in section III, this report focuses on dutiable imports and does not take into account any tariff preference programs or special rates of duty.

## II. Suggested article description(s) for enactment (including appropriate HTS subheading(s)):

Self-contained, single-element unidirectional (cardioid) dynamic microphones, each incorporating a copper coil, neodymium magnet, steel mesh grille and zinc die-cast handle (of zamak 3 or equivalent material), and having a frequency response between 60 Hz to 15 kHz and less than 10 dB deviation across frequency range (provided for in subheading 8518.10.80)

(If enacted, the tariff relief provided for in this bill would be available to any entity that imports the product that is covered by the bill.)

Description above compared with bill as introduced:

- Same
- Different (see Technical Comments section)

## III. Other product information, including uses/applications and source(s) of imports

A microphone is a transducer that converts sound into an electrical signal. Microphones are used to record sound, sending the electrical signal to a recording device; to amplify sound by sending the electrical signal to an amplifier and then to loudspeakers; or to convert the sound to be radiobroadcast. Dynamic microphones like those covered by this bill work like a loudspeaker, but in reverse. Sound causes a diaphragm in the microphone to vibrate; the diaphragm is connected to a coil of wire that wraps around a permanent magnet without touching the magnet. The coil of wire moving around a magnet generates an electrical signal that is sent to an amplifier or recording device.

A unidirectional cardioid collects sound from a single source or direction while rejecting ambient sounds from surrounding sources. This type of microphone can be found in a wide array of commercial applications and consumer products. The zamak 3 handle is made of an alloy of 96 percent zinc, 4 percent aluminum by weight, a product known for having a high degree of castability and dimensional stability. This product has been in existence for some time and is well known in trade; it was previously covered by a trademark, but that status expired.

The principal import sources of microphones are China, Japan, and Germany, from which the United States imported \$75.8 million, \$54.7 million, and \$19.0 million, respectively, of \$218.2 million in total dutiable imports under HTS subheading 8518.10.80 in 2011.

**IV. Estimated effect on customs revenue**

Subject product HTS subheading(s)	8518.10.80				
Item	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Col.1-general rate of duty (%) or percentage point reduction	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9	4.9
Estimated value of <i>dutiable</i> imports (\$)	6,200,000	6,500,000	6,700,000	7,300,000	7,800,000
Customs revenue loss (\$)	303,800	318,500	328,300	357,700	382,200

Note: Customs revenue loss is provided for 5 years, although the effective period of the proposed legislation may differ. Regarding the HTS subheading listed in the article description of the bill, the Commission may express an opinion on the HTS classification of a product to facilitate consideration of the bill. However, by law, only U.S. Customs and Border Protection is authorized to issue a binding ruling on this matter. The Commission believes that Customs should be consulted prior to enactment of the bill.

Dutiable imports were based on (more than one may apply):

- Official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce
- Provided by industry sources
- Industry information
- Commission estimates

Duty reduction notes:

- This bill is not a duty reduction
- This bill is a temporary duty reduction. Rates are shown below.

Col.1-general duty rate (%)  Temporary rate (%)  Percentage point reduction (%)

**V. Technical comments**

The article description set forth above has been modified slightly in an attempt to conform with normal HTS usage. However, some terms, such as "self-contained" and "single-element," would require interpretation by Customs officials before the actual scope of the proposed heading can be known.

**VI. Continuation**

## VII. Contacts with domestic firms/organizations

#	Firm/organization and contact name	Telephone number	Claims same or competing product made in the United States	Submission attached	Opposition noted
1	Shure, Inc. (Interested entity) Mark Brunner	847-600-2000	No	No	No
2	Audiovox Corp. Pat Moffett	631-436-6499	No	No	No
3	Consumer Electronics Association Sage Chandler, schandler@ce.org	703-907-5262	No	No	No
4	Harman International Industries, Inc. Jean Lépine	203-328-3500	No	No	No
5	Koss Corp. Marzena Pawlow	800-872-5677	No	No	No
6	Panasonic Corp. Madeline Kuflik	201-392-4649	No	No	No
7	Peavey Duane Prentice	601-483-5365	No	No	No
8	Sennheiser Electronic Corp. Lou deLaforcade	860-464-9190	No	No	No
9	Sony Electronics, Inc. Christina Mulvihill	202-429-3653	No	Yes	Yes
10	Yamaha Electronics Corp. Doan Hoff	714-522-9105	No	No	No

Michael T. Williams  
Executive Vice President  
& General Counsel

**SONY**

Sony Electronics Inc.  
16530 Via Esprillo, MZ 1105  
San Diego, California 92127  
Telephone (858) 942-7994  
Fax (858) 942-8170

June 20, 2012

The Honorable Dave Camp  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Chairman, Committee on Way and Means  
1102 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Miscellaneous Trade Bill

Dear Chairman Camp:

I am writing to express my opposition to H.R. 4821, legislation which would temporarily suspend the 4.9 percent duty on imports of certain self-contained, single-element unidirectional (cardioid) dynamic microphones.

Sony Electronics Inc. manufactures a similar product which would be harmed by passage of this legislation, providing an unfair financial benefit to competitors.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,



Michael T. Williams  
Executive Vice President and General Counsel  
Sony Electronics Inc.

112TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4821

To suspend temporarily the duty on certain self-contained, single-element unidirectional (cardioid) dynamic microphones.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 26, 2012

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

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## A BILL

To suspend temporarily the duty on certain self-contained, single-element unidirectional (cardioid) dynamic microphones.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. CERTAIN SELF-CONTAINED, SINGLE-ELEMENT**  
4 **UNIDIRECTIONAL (CARDIOID) DYNAMIC**  
5 **MICROPHONES.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 99 of  
7 the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States is  
8 amended by inserting in numerical sequence the following  
9 new heading:

“	9902.01.00	Self-contained, single-element unidirectional (cardioid) dynamic microphone incorporating a copper coil, neo-dymium magnet, steel mesh grille, zinc die-cast handle (zamak 3 or equivalent), a frequency response between 60 Hz to 15 kHz and less than 10 dB deviation across frequency range (provided for in sub-heading 8518.10.80) .....	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2015	”.
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1           (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by  
2 subsection (a) applies to goods entered, or withdrawn from  
3 warehouse for consumption, on or after the 15th day after  
4 the date of the enactment of this Act.

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