



August 1, 2006

Senator Craig Thomas  
109 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

FAX: 202-224-1724

Dear Senator Thomas,

I am sending this letter to ask you to oppose the recently proposed Bill S. 3154 by Senator Chambliss of Georgia that intends to temporarily suspend the 3% duty on garden hoses measuring 150 feet or 50 feet in length.

Teknor Apex is a privately held company headquartered in Pawtucket, Rhode Island with manufacturing locations in the following states: Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, Ohio, Kentucky, South Carolina, Florida, Tennessee, Texas and California. Our United States employment is approximately 1800 people. We are a diversified material science company using complimentary technologies to serve common markets.

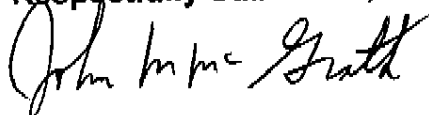
Teknor Apex Company is proud to be a United States manufacturer of premium garden hose. We currently manufacture garden hose in the states of South Carolina and Tennessee. At our Fountain Inn, South Carolina facility we employ 95 people to manufacture garden hose and at our Brownsville, Tennessee facility we employ 189 to manufacture garden hose. We distribute garden hose in California from City of Industry. As part of the garden hose manufacturing, we use materials produced in several of our locations throughout the United States.

The United States garden hose market is currently comprised of mostly U.S. manufactured product. Over recent years there has been a steady growth of imported product entering the market, most of which is from China. Bill S. 3154 poses a further threat to our competitiveness as a U.S. manufacturer and the jobs of our employees. Currently there is a 7% duty on imported PVC resin. PVC resin is the primary raw material in the hose. We would argue that the 3% duty on garden hose should be increased to 7% to be consistent with the duty on PVC resin.

**August 1, 2006**  
**Page 2**

**The introduction of this Bill further threatens the viability and future success of all U.S. based Garden Hose Manufacturers. As an American manufacturer we ask for you to oppose Bill S. 3154 proposed by Senator Chambliss.**

**Respectfully Submitted,**



**John M. McGrath**  
**Vice President**  
**Consumer Products Division**  
**Teknor Apex Company**  
**Phone 401-725-8000, Extension 3823**  
**Fax 401-729-0778**  
**E-mail [jmcgrath@teknorapex.com](mailto:jmcgrath@teknorapex.com)**

Where Tomorrow's Technology is Now



INDUSTRIES Division of U.S. Wire & Cable Corporation

Tel: 973-824-5530

Fax: 973-824-1208

Toll Free: 800-327-4673

Website: [www.flexonhose.com](http://www.flexonhose.com)

One Flexon Plaza

Newark, NJ 07114

August 02, 2006

Senator Craig Thomas  
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Thomas,

I am writing to register our opposition to Bill S. 3154, proposed by Senator Chambliss of Georgia, which seeks to suspend the duty on 50 foot and 150 foot garden hoses manufactured from non-recycled materials.

By way of introduction, Flexon Industries was founded in New York and has been manufacturing garden hose in the United States for over 50 years. With facilities in New Jersey and New York, as well as a Distribution center in California, we employ over 230 people.

While competition in the garden hose industry had historically been domestic in nature, there has been a steady decline over the years in the number of U.S. manufacturers, particularly as imports have entered the market, especially from China. The proposed Bill would further adversely impact our industry, our business, our suppliers and our employees. Moreover, the loss of the domestic garden hose industry would have adverse ecological ramifications on the Country, as the U.S. would lose an industry which is a major recycler of plastic waste materials.

We are proud to produce our product in America, to provide jobs to Americans, to support American suppliers and to help our environment. Bill S. 3154 threatens the future viability of all of this. In this regard, I respectfully request that your support in opposing proposed Bill S. 3154.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Rauch", is written over a horizontal line.

David Rauch  
President

HAYWOOD COUNTY  
**BROWNSVILLE**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

121 W. Main  
Brownsville, TN 38012

(731) 772-2193  
FAX (731) 772-2195



August 3, 2006

Senator Chuck Grassley  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator,

As Executive Director of the Brownsville/ Haywood County Tennessee Chamber of Commerce, I am sending you this letter to ask you to oppose the recently proposed Bill S. 3154 by Senator Chambliss of Georgia. This bill intends to temporarily suspend the 3% duty on garden hoses measuring 150 feet or 50 feet in length from China.

Haywood Company Teknor Apex garden hose manufacturing operation is located at 751 Dupree Street, Brownsville, Tennessee. Senator Grassley, over 600 of our citizens work for this fine manufacturing plant and they are our largest employer. Brownsville and Haywood County could not stand to lose this wonderful company because of unfair competition from China. Please do all in you power as a member of the Finance Committee to oppose Bill S. 3154. The people of Haywood County Tennessee thank you for any help you could give us in this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joe Ing". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Joe Ing  
Executive Director  
Brownsville/ Haywood County Chamber of Commerce



## **TEKNOR APEX COMPANY**

Haywood Plant

**August 3, 2006**

**Senator Chuck Grassley  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20510**

**Dear Senator:**

**This letter is being sent to ask you to oppose the recently proposed Bill S. 3154 by Senator Chambliss of Georgia that intends to temporarily suspend the 3% duty on garden hoses measuring 150 feet or 50 feet in length.**

**Employees of the Haywood Company Teknor Apex garden hose manufacturing operation at 751 Dupree Street, Brownsville, Tennessee are deeply concerned and do not want to lose their jobs because of unfair competition from China.**

**Employees at Haywood Company know Chinese hose already has a cost advantage to U. S. manufactured hose because of the low wages and lower raw material costs in China. While a 3% duty doesn't sound nearly high enough, it's hard to understand why it should be eliminated.**

**The introduction of this Bill further threatens the viability and future success of all U.S. based Garden Hose Manufacturers and threatens many jobs. The Haywood Company Teknor Apex is the largest employer in Haywood County. Over 600 people from the community are employed here. If these jobs goes away because of unfair competition from China, many employees will be unable to find another position locally. As employees of Haywood Company, we ask for you to oppose Bill S. 3154 proposed by Senator Chambliss.**

**You will find with this letter a petition which has been signed by several employees of Haywood Company in opposition of Bill S. 3154. Please take into deep consideration the effects that this bill, if passed, could have on our company and its employees.**

PETITION SIGN-UP SHEET IN OPPOSITION TO BILL S. 3154

0

Bill Hs  
 Betty Austin  
 Brenda Castenon  
 Sally m Rhodes  
 Nathan Landes  
 John W. H. Jr.  
 Gary Edward  
 Jim Hagan  
 Patricia Williams  
 Nancy Curcio  
 Jeff John  
 Susan Paul  
 Mild C. W.  
 Renee Lopez  
 Chase Montgomery  
 LARRY SHAW  
 Jerome Jones  
 Richard Sander  
 Jennifer Staley  
 Gilda Adams  
 Neph. Haddison  
 Joe Hays  
 [Signature]  
 Ann West  
 [Signature]  
 Walter R. Gates  
 [Signature]  
 [Signature]  
 Larry Ronald Washburn  
 [Signature]  
 [Signature]  
 [Signature]  
 Joe Cannon

Paul Matthes  
 [Signature]  
 Richard Wallington  
 Charles Hood  
 Lynn J. Farrington  
 [Signature]  
 Willie Smith  
 Wade Ridley  
 J W White  
 [Signature]  
 Brian K. Helms  
 Thomas C. Sathan  
 Nancy White  
 Dr. M. Bell Jones  
 Garry Hays  
 [Signature]  
 [Signature]  
 [Signature]  
 [Signature]  
 Willie R. Qualls  
 Roy K. Kelley  
 Stuart Whittington  
 Linda Clark  
 Katrina Ellis  
 Jennifer Nelson  
 [Signature]  
 Sheila Sord  
 Ole Sord  
 Ted Woods  
 Linda White  
 Ima Crab  
 [Signature]

PETITION SIGN-UP SHEET IN OPPOSITION TO BILL S. 3154

Clay Newman  
Lynn Kald  
James Sewell  
Robert Crittendon  
Joseph H. Unger  
Mark R. Waller  
Claudette C. Juqua  
Harry Bass Jr.  
Annie Sanogter  
Grant Stork  
Tommy Cannon  
Donald Marques  
James Nidellebo  
DOROTA JERY  
Ezell Bond  
Lee M. Carter  
Stump Cab  
D. J. H. H. H.  
Dennis Caldwell  
Shirley Ann  
Ludie McKeown  
Gene Miller  
Cora Lee  
Lynne B. B.  
Laurie Rogers  
Carmel B. B.  
Annie Bond  
Kathleen  
Ira Ransford  
Melvin Lurie  
Kenneth C. The Lion  
Norma Penheth

Rubben Stark Jr  
Vernon Carwell  
Chris Whitish  
Derek Keel  
Lance Montgomery  
Jerry Jakes  
Karnest Bacon  
James E. Mabon  
Ozell Nancy  
William R. Hutton  
Mark D. Hillard  
Dennis W. Bayl  
Tracy Bullock  
Cynthia  
Gemmae J. J. J.  
M. J. J.  
Loralee  
James J. J. J.  
Terry Caldwell  
Lod Lutt  
Don J. J.  
J. J. J.  
Donald Lee  
Cynthia P. Johnson  
Bob Terry  
Jequita J. J.  
Dorahl W. Elrod  
Linda J. J.  
Elaine Barnhart  
Marilyn Hales  
John J. J.  
James J. J.  
Christine J. J.

PETITION SIGN-UP SHEET IN OPPOSITION TO BILL S. 3154

Ed Ellenton  
 Katherine Ward  
 Dennis Evans  
 Michael Ophant  
 Rob Lincee  
 Ted Woods  
 Jimmy Jamett  
~~John King~~  
 Dan Archer  
 Emma Hobbe  
 Mike  
 Ben Farrell  
 Ray Bradford  
 Ed Rusko  
 Ned Koff  
 Walter Mehtye  
 Jim C. Moore  
 Michael R. Moore  
 Robert Butler  
 Keith Bell  
 DON GLENN  
 Denise Taylor  
 Jenny Stagg  
 Rosline Hudson  
 Brenda Gardner  
 Cathy Thomas  
 Dora Beata  
 Jane Gura  
 Dennis Pettigrew  
 JOEY PATTY

Ruthie Rogers  
 Anna Witherspoon  
 Albert J. Wood  
 Scott Wankel  
 Richard Chelmer  
 Harold Hay  
 Johnny Wise  
 Clay Williams  
 Ed Moss  
 Louis Taylor  
 Lucy England  
 Jung Lee  
 Sam Walker  
 Jack Lewis  
 James Daughler  
 Larry E. Rice  
 Ricky Parker  
 Roger Canage  
 Terri Covington  
 Glenn Gray  
 Clinton Dev  
 Herman Harris  
 Marquee D. Jarrett  
 Wanda Woods  
 Jack Moore  
 Donald E. King  
 Billy Shimm  
 William Belis  
 Monner Beuno