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## PURCELL INTERNATIONAL

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December 2, 2009

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**Via: Email & Fax**

Senate Finance Committee  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC, 20510  
ATTN: MTB

Re: Senate Miscellaneous Tariff Bills: S. 2141, S. 2242, S. 2273, S. 2244

Dear Chairman Baucus and Ranking Member Grassley:

We at PURCELL INTERNATIONAL wish to write you to express our support for S. 2141, S. 2142, S. 2273, and S. 2244. These bills will extend the current duty reductions and suspensions for prepared artichokes and oysters, and provide for a new duty suspension for sardines. These bills have also been introduced in the House by then Congresswoman Tauscher and successfully underwent the respective vetting process. The house bills are H.R. 5012, 5013, 5014, and 5015.

Our Walnut Creek, California-based firm is a leader in food sales and distribution. We have been in business since 1954 and specialize in sales of "private label" products to retail grocery chains, national branded companies and foodservice distributors. We also provide many manufacturers with ingredients such as beef, pork, tuna, pineapple, mushrooms, artichokes, fruit, vegetables, shellfish and fin fish.

The continuation and new suspensions and reductions of duty for these products are very important for our company, as they allow us to continue to provide high quality foods to our American consumers at a lower cost. To date, these duty suspensions and reductions have generated savings of hundred of thousands of dollars for our customers. However, if the temporary relief on duties expires, the duty on these products would increase by many percentage points contributing to high prices. As a matter of fact, none of these products are produced today in the United States.

The benefits of duty suspensions accrue to American companies such as ours, and we then are able to pass them on to our American consumers. During a time of economic hardship, we try to offer customers the lowest prices available and continuation of these duty suspensions will help us meet that goal.

Sincerely,

William E. Purcell  
President  
PURCELL INTERNATIONAL  
[bill@purcell-intl.com](mailto:bill@purcell-intl.com)