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**ESSEX MFG., INC.**

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**EMPIRE STATE Building**  
350 FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 501  
NEW YORK, NY 10118-3299

TEL 212 239-0080 • 800-648-6010  
FAX 212 714-2958  
EMAIL baum-essex.com

November 20, 2009

The Honorable Max Baucus  
Chairman  
Senate Finance Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: MTB: S. 2613, 2614 and 2617 – Comments for the Record**

Dear Chairman Baucus:

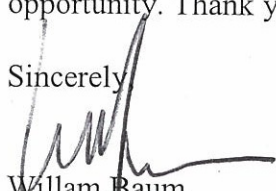
Essex Manufacturing, Inc. is pleased to express our support for S. 2613, S. 2614 and S. 2617, sponsored by Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY). Essex is a leading designer, manufacturer and distributor of outerwear, rainwear and rainwear accessories.

These bills will benefit US companies and consumers alike by providing a temporary duty suspension for certain golf and stick umbrellas. There is no US production of these umbrellas to protect and yet the duty rate remains at a high 8.2%. The category of umbrellas includes certain golf umbrellas and fashion umbrellas with non-collapsible shafts.

The 8.2% duty rate contrasts sharply with the zero duty rate applicable to umbrellas with a collapsible shaft. This is due to changes in the harmonized tariff structure over 10 years ago. A temporary duty suspension bill is needed to remedy this disparity.

We encourage the Committee to act favorably upon this legislation at the earliest opportunity. Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,



William Baum  
Chief Executive Officer