



November 24, 2009

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance
215 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Finance
215 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: S. 2640 (Sessions), A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain nonwoven polypropylene zippered sleeping bag carry cases, not under 77.5 cm in circumference and not exceeding 106.7 cm in circumference.

Dear Chairman Baucus and Ranking Member Grassley:

Outdoor Industry Association is the national trade association for the suppliers, manufacturers and retailer of active outdoor recreation products, including apparel, footwear and accessories. The outdoor industry contributes \$730 billion annually to the U.S. economy, supports nearly 6.5 million jobs across the United States and generates \$49 billion in national tax revenue every year.

On behalf of the more than 1200 OIA member businesses and the thousands of Americans they employ, I write to you in support of S. 2640, a bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain nonwoven polypropylene zippered sleeping bag carry cases.

S. 2640 is important legislation for OIA member companies across the country that manufacture or sell sleeping bags, sleeping bag accessories and related products. The duty suspension on sleeping bag carry cases will help lower costs for sleeping bag manufacturers, their vendors and retailers and ultimately the American consumer.

As the U.S. economy continues to recover, OIA believes enactment of this tariff bill and several other MTBs introduced on behalf of OIA members are crucial to bolstering that recovery and creating new jobs in the outdoor industry and beyond. I ask that you add S. 2640 to the MTB package and ensure enactment this year by passing the package as soon as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this important legislation and I appreciate your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank Hugelmeyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Frank Hugelmeyer
President and Chief Executive Officer