

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 20, 2012

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
H-232, The Capitol
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Eric Cantor
Majority Leader
H-329, The Capitol
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner:

As Members who are very concerned about the health of the manufacturing sector and the growth of jobs in America, we are writing to support the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB) process initiated by the Ways and Means Committee on March 30 and its prompt completion this year. As you know, the duty suspension and reduction provisions enacted in the 111th Congress are set to expire at year's end and would amount to a tax increase. Therefore, Congress must take swift action to prevent this tax hike that will hurt U.S. manufacturing and jeopardize U.S. jobs across the United States.

The MTB has been an important tool for making American manufacturing more competitive for 30 years by suspending import taxes on necessary manufacturing inputs not available in this country. Given the fragile state of our economic recovery, the MTB remains critical to expanding manufacturing employment. In other words, it's a jobs bill. The MTB has been estimated to support 90,000 American jobs, increase U.S. production by \$4.6 billion and expand U.S. GDP by \$3.5 billion.

In lowering the cost of manufacturing in America, the MTB increases the attractiveness of the United States as a place to do business. As the National Association of Manufacturers has documented, it is already 20 percent more expensive to manufacture in America relative to our major competitors. The way to build manufacturing in America and create high-paying jobs is to reduce those costs – not to raise them. This bill helps to lower manufacturing costs and provides our manufacturers with the certainty they need to invest and reinvest in their U.S.-based productions and operations.

Over the past two years, there has been paralysis on moving forward on the MTB over whether or not MTB provisions are prohibited as “limited tariff benefits” under House rules. As fiscal conservatives, we appreciate these concerns. However, we believe it is an error to view duty suspension bills in that manner. Unlike spending earmarks, as they are sometimes erroneously characterized, a duty suspension included in the MTB is available to any U.S. manufacturer – including small businesses – importing the covered product because it is not available domestically. Downstream producers, distribution service providers, and consumers benefit as well from the tax reductions.

Moreover, MTB provisions are vetted through the most rigorously transparent process undertaken by Congress. Members are required to make the appropriate disclosures, and all forms and submissions are available online.

Therefore, we urge you to work with the Ways & Means Committee to take swift action to move forward and complete MTB legislation as soon as possible in 2012 to prevent a tax hike on U.S. manufacturing and save U.S. jobs.

We thank you in advance for consideration of our request and look forward to working with you on the MTB legislation in 2012.

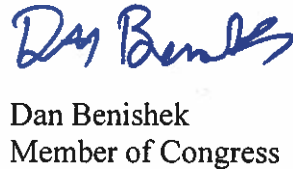
Sincerely,



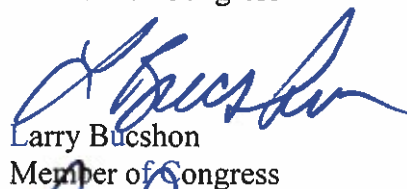
Tom Reed
Member of Congress



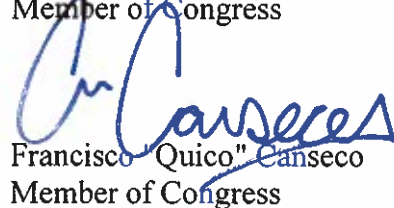
Lou Barletta
Member of Congress



Dan Benishek
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Larry Bucshon
Member of Congress



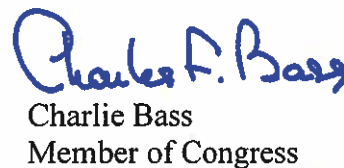
Francisco "Quico" Canseco
Member of Congress



Rick Crawford
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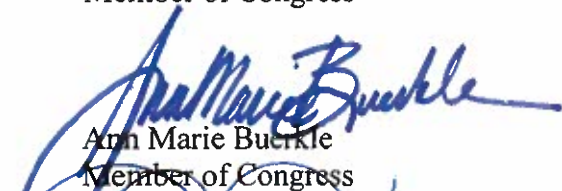
Rick Berg
Member of Congress



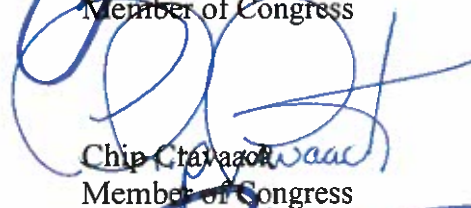
Charlie Bass
Member of Congress



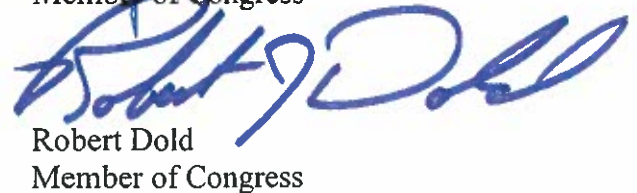
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Ann Marie Buerkle
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Robert Dold
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Jeff Duncan
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Renee Ellmers
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Stephen Fincher
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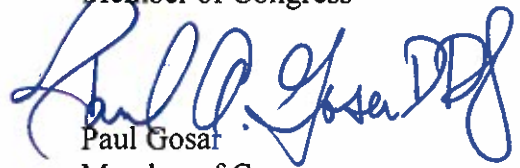
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Bob Gibbs
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Chris Gibson
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Paul Gosar
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Michael Grimm
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Andy Harris
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Vicky Hartzler
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Nan Hayworth
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Joe Heck
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Tim Huelskamp
Member of Congress

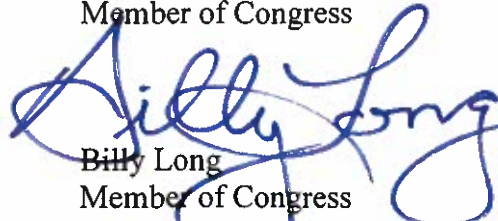


Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress

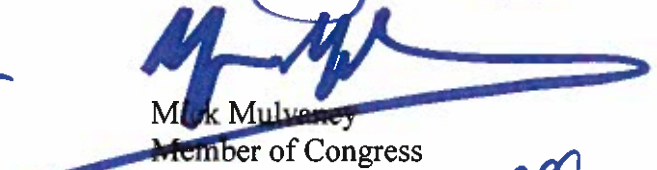

Bill Johnson
Member of Congress


Mike Kelly
Member of Congress

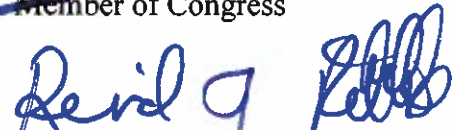

Adam Kinzinger
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Pat Meehan
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Reid Ribble
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Randy Hultgren
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Morgan Griffith
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Martha Roby
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Steve Southerland
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Tom Marino
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable David Camp