The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Chairman  
Committee on Ways and Means  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Orrin Hatch  
Chairman  
Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sander Levin  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Ways and Means  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Ryan and Hatch and Ranking Members Levin and Wyden:

The American Chemistry Council strongly supports the inclusion of an objective, transparent Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB) review process by the Conference Committee to H.R. 644, the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015. Timely action on this important tariff provision will improve America’s global manufacturing competitiveness at a time when American manufacturing and the business of chemistry need it most.

For the U.S. chemical industry, eliminating tariffs on imported inputs not produced in the United States will help level an uneven playing field for American manufacturers. Inclusion of MTB process reform can further stimulate the ongoing U.S. manufacturing renaissance, create and maintain needed jobs, and provide American-made final products with broader access to world markets.

The chemical industry has a dominant presence in the American manufacturing sector: over 96% of all manufactured goods are directly touched by chemistry, either as a material, in processing or in other value-added means. The chemical industry supports nearly 25% of U.S. GDP and provides over 800,000 skilled, high-paying American jobs, with production in nearly every state. It is also one of the top exporting sectors of the U.S. economy, with exports surpassing $190 billion last year. Despite the positive economic outlook of the industry, its potential growth is undermined by distortions in the U.S. tariff code. Chemical companies, along with manufacturers across a wide range of industries and sectors, will benefit from MTB’s elimination of counterproductive tariffs on imported materials for further manufacturing.
According to the National Association of Manufacturers' (NAM) economic impact assessment of the MTB, congressional failure to take action on MTB has resulted in a tax hike on manufacturers of $748 million and in economic losses of $1.857 billion over three years. Congress has the opportunity to reduce barriers to domestic production and increase the competitiveness of American companies by taking action now on MTB. The elimination of tariffs on imported inputs would enhance the competitiveness of U.S. chemical manufacturers and stimulate greater growth and job creation in the U.S. economy.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this important action.

Sincerely,

Cal Dooley

cc: The Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the House of Representatives
    The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader of the Senate