April 22, 2013

Dear Members of Congress:

I am writing to urge you to expedite passage of the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB) at the earliest opportunity. Congress’s failure to act on this legislation by December 31, 2012 has resulted in unnecessary tariff burdens on hundreds of imported materials and intermediate products that are essential to U.S. manufacturers, but unavailable from domestic sources. A reinstatement of duty suspension would help contain input costs and boost the competitiveness of the chemical manufacturing sector. Since over 95% of all manufactured goods are touched by the business of chemistry, a reinstatement of duty suspension would also help boost the competitiveness of downstream producers, promoting growth and job creation and providing benefits to purchasers and consumers.

The American Chemistry Council\(^1\) has long supported the MTB. For the U.S. chemical industry, duty suspension provides critical assistance in allowing American-made final products to be more globally competitive, and support the maintenance of manufacturing plants and jobs in the United States. Given the MTB’s importance to U.S. competitiveness, American jobs, and simple fair play, the MTB should receive the same strong support by Congressional leaders as it has in the past.

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

Sincerely,

Cal Dooley

cc: Members of the Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade

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\(^1\) The American Chemistry Council (ACC) represents the leading companies engaged in the business of chemistry. ACC members apply the science of chemistry to make innovative products and services that make people’s lives better, healthier and safer. ACC is committed to improved environmental, health and safety performance through Responsible Care®, common sense advocacy designed to address major public policy issues, and health and environmental research and product testing. The business of chemistry is a $760 billion enterprise and a key element of the nation’s economy. It is the largest exporting sector in the U.S., accounting for 12 percent of U.S. exports. Chemistry companies are among the largest investors in research and development. Safety and security have always been primary concerns of ACC members, and they have intensified their efforts, working closely with government agencies to improve security and to defend against any threat to the nation’s critical infrastructure.