

The Honorable Dave Camp
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sander Levin
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Camp and Baucus and Ranking Members Levin and Hatch:

The farming, animal agriculture, feed and fertilizer industries recognize the benefits of affordable crop protection products and is fully aware of the high costs associated with their discovery and production. Tariffs on pesticide feedstocks, active ingredients or final products imported for our use adds undesirable costs, reduces industry research and development efforts to develop future products and is counterproductive to modern agriculture. For that reason, the undersigned agricultural organizations support temporary duty reduction for agricultural inputs that would be provided by the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB). Approximately 50 percent of the MTB package is targeted toward agricultural products. Thus, as a sector, American farmers and ranchers stand to lose the most if no action is taken to pass this bill.

Production of food, feed and fiber depends on the discovery and commercialization of advanced pest control products tailored for our crops, production methods, soils, climatic conditions and, of course, pest pressures. Staying ahead of the many weed, insect and disease pests that attack our crops is an ongoing challenge. Even after harvest, our crops can be subject to attack by pests and diseases. We support efforts by the crop input industry to provide us with continuously improved pest-control tools at affordable prices. Reduction of import tariffs on their pesticides, active ingredients, and intermediate chemicals is an important aspect of congressional support of modern agriculture.

Developing advanced products that are safer and more effective is expensive, and the duty reduction in the MTB will also help offset costs of discovery, safety validation and government approval of the products we need for food, feed and fiber production. These research and development programs provide extensive jobs to many professionals.

Production agriculture supports the duty reduction process. We urge you to support passage of the MTB.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Retailers Association
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Feed Industry Association
American Soybean Association
American Sugar Alliance
American Sugarbeet Growers
CropLife America
National Barley Growers Association
National Corn Growers Association

National Cotton Council
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Union
National Sorghum Producers
National Sunflower Association
Southern Peanut Farmers Federation
US Canola Association
USA Rice Federation
U.S. Rice Producers Association

Cc: Members of the Senate Finance Committee