

October 11, 2007

Honorable Charles B. Rangel
Chairman
Ways and Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
1106 Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Jim McCrery
Ranking Member
Ways and Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
1139E Longworth Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rangel and Rep. McCrery:

The companies and trade organizations listed below are writing to express our support for complying with dispute settlement cases in the World Trade Organization. In particular, we are concerned that legislation requiring the United States to defy decisions properly adopted by the WTO Dispute Settlement Body should not be included in any bills approved by the Ways and Means or Finance Committees.

One such bill, H.R. 2714, would require just such defiance. It relates to the issue of “zeroing” in antidumping cases. While this issue has been controversial, and while certain companies or associations may take differing views of its merits, the fundamental point for us is that the WTO has issued its decision and the United States has committed to implement it not later than December 24, 2007.

In our view, implementation of WTO decisions is absolutely necessary if the United States intends to employ the dispute settlement system to change policies of other countries through dispute settlement. We cannot ask our trading partners to adhere to their trade obligations if we do not do the same.

Thus, the undersigned groups urge you, as leaders of Congress in international trade matters, to refrain from adopting or supporting legislation that would dictate U.S. failure to implement specific WTO rulings, including the “zeroing” decisions.

We look forward to working with the Committee on this important matter.

Very truly yours,

American Apparel & Footwear Association
American Institute for International Steel
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Consuming Industries Trade Action Coalition
Dow Chemical
Emerson Electric
Motor and Equipment Manufacturers Association

National Fisheries Institute
National Foreign Trade Council
North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers
Precision Metalforming Association
Printing Industries of America
Retail Industry Leaders Association
Travel Goods Association
Whirlpool Corporation
US Chamber of Commerce