

Aric Newhouse

Senior Vice President
Policy and Government Relations

October 20, 2011

U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States representing manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, urges you to oppose the drug importation amendment (SA 769) offered by Senator David Vitter (R-LA) to H.R. 2212, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

The NAM opposes the Vitter amendment, which would permit the importation of prescription drugs outside the existing safety system established by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Limiting or denying resources to the FDA – the agency responsible for ensuring that U.S. consumers are not exposed to harmful and counterfeit drugs – appears extremely unwise. We fear that drug importation could expose consumers to dangerous counterfeit or adulterated medications, undermining the quality and safety of prescription drugs.

The NAM's Key Vote Advisory Committee has indicated that votes on the Vitter amendment, including procedural votes related to the amendment, may be considered for designation as Key Manufacturing Votes in the 112th Congress.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Aric Newhouse

Key Manufacturing Vote