

**John Engler**

*President and CEO*

May 5, 2010

Dear Representative:

I wish to call your attention to the attached letter supporting immediate passage of a Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB) in the U.S. House of Representatives. This letter, signed by over 130 companies and associations, was sent to Speaker Pelosi, Leader Boehner and to Ways & Means Chairman Levin and Ranking Member Camp earlier today.

The MTB is one of the most important short-term actions Congress can take to preserve and expand good American jobs, cut the costs of doing business in this country, boost America's manufacturing competitiveness, and boost our manufacturing exports. American manufacturers, large and small, use the MTB's tariff suspension provisions to obtain raw materials, proprietary inputs, and other products that are not available in the United States. Without the MTB's suspension of tariffs, companies must pay duties on these imported products – which is a tax that is then passed on to consumers.

The MTB process is wholly transparent. It is vetted by a number of Federal agencies, including the U.S. International Trade Commission, the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the Office of Management and Budget. Any request for a tariff suspension that has domestic competition is rejected during the vetting process.

NAM members do not believe that the tariff suspensions in the MTB are earmarks. Further, we believe that the interpretation that House rules do not define the limited tariff benefits in the MTB as Congressional earmarks is the correct interpretation. Our manufacturing members believe that the MTB process is a transparent, bipartisan way to reduce the costs of manufacturing in America, a view I deeply share. Our competitors maintain similar programs to benefit manufacturing in their countries, and we cannot afford to add another cost disadvantage to manufacturing in America. I encourage you to support the MTB and to vote YES when it comes to the House floor.

Sincerely,



John Engler

JE/dg  
Attachment

*Leading Innovation. Creating Opportunity. Pursuing Progress.*