



BERTSCHE ENGINEERING CORPORATION

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November 24, 2009

Senate Finance Committee
Attention: MTB
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC, 20510

Re: Opposition to S.2014 and S.2047 Suspension of U.S. import tariff for 5-Axis Horizontal Spindle Machining Centers.

Dear Senate Finance Committee

Bertsche Engineering is a U.S, Illinois based manufacturer of 5 axis horizontal machining centers and is very much opposed to the proposed suspension of the current 4.2% import tariff contained in bills S.2014 and S.2047 by Senator Menendez of New Jersey on behalf of Mitsui Seki (USA). Mitsui Seki is an importer and seller of Japanese machine tools.

Bertsche Engineering is one of the few domestic machine tool builders of 5 axis horizontal machines left in the United States in an industry already faced with near extinction due to the huge market penetration of foreign machine tool builders. We are a critical industry to the D.O.D. Foreign exports to the U.S. have significant advantages when exporting their products to the U.S. including among other things Value Added Tax (V.A.T) tax relief as an exported product. In this extremely difficult economy any slight retained advantage is critical to the survival of our industry, my company and to the preservation of jobs.

Thank you for consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard W. Bertsche', written over a horizontal line.

Richard W. Bertsche
President
Bertsche Engineering Corp.