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December 4, 2009

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

Dear Senate Finance Committee:

On behalf of the Burley Tobacco Growers Cooperative Association and its 198,000 members from 5 states we object to Bill S. 2042. We are growers of the highest quality U. S. Burley tobacco in the world and think that allowing the temporary suspension of the duty on Reconstituted tobacco will be harmful to our livelihoods.

With U.S tobacco growers facing uncertain times with the passage of FDA regulation of tobacco and while continuing to move towards producing the highest quality and safest tobacco leaf in the world, it makes no sense from a grower perspective or from a public health perspective to allow for the increased importation of reconstituted tobacco. It would also seem untimely to be allowing this to happen at a time when we do not know what FDA will allow to be used in domestic tobacco products.

We would ask your committee to oppose this bill at this time. We would be glad to speak to anyone on this matter at any time. My contact information is attached and we look forward to your comments on this matter.

Sincerely,

Roger Quarles, President

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