



December 2, 2009

Senate Finance Committee
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
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Fax: (202) 228-0567

Via: Email & Fax

Re: Senate Miscellaneous Tariff Bill: S. 2120

Dear Chairman Baucus and Ranking Member Grassley:

Per your Committee's request on November 2, 2009, I am writing on behalf of Zeon Chemicals to express our support for S. 2120.

Zeon Chemicals is a leading developer and supplier of innovative polymers, including synthetic rubber and specialty chemicals. We employ approximately 300 people in manufacturing, research and development, sales/marketing, and corporate administration functions within the United States.

S. 2120 will suspend the duty for imports of cyclo-olefin polymers (COP) – a plastic resin – used in the production of contact lenses, bio-diagnostic devices, medical packaging, optical lenses, and other components. Products made from COP, as opposed to other plastics, provide for glass-like transparency, increased purity, and improved moisture barrier properties.

The reduction in cost associated with the duty suspension will make Zeon Chemicals and our customers more competitive. At present, we and our customers face aggressive off-shore competition, who have access to lower cost raw materials. This duty suspension will enable us to maintain our current staff of three full time, US-based individuals working on COP market development. And, it will enable our domestic customers to more effectively compete with off-shore competition.

In 2008, we paid approximately \$300,000 in import duties on COP. We estimate that total duties paid for 2009 on the importation of COP will not exceed \$500,000.

Suspension of duties would not negatively impact local U.S producers as there are no producers of COP resin or other resins that fall under the Chemical Abstract Services (CAS) numbers noted in S. 2120 within the United States.

The suspension of duties on COP is of high importance to Zeon Chemicals and we appreciate your attention in this regard. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me at (502) 775-2078 or via email: cail@zeonchemicals.com.

Sincerely,

Brian Cail
General Manager, New Business Development
ZEON CHEMICALS L.P.
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