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December 4, 2009

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL AND FACSIMILE**

Senate Finance Committee  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
ATTN: MTB  
Email: [mtb2009@finance-dem.senate.gov](mailto:mtb2009@finance-dem.senate.gov)  
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**RE: S. 2243**

Dear Chairman Baucus and Ranking Member Grassley:

Following the Committee's request on November 2, 2009 for public comments on bills introduced to be included in the MTB process, 5.11, Inc., d/b/a 5.11 Tactical® ("5.11"), wishes to express its strong support for S. 2243.

5.11 sells a variety of innovative products for tactical applications and use by law enforcement, military, and fire/EMS personnel, including uniforms, clothing, bags, gloves, accessories, and other safety equipment. We are based in Modesto, California and employ more than 200 people in over 20 U.S. States.

S. 2243 will suspend the duty for imports of environmentally-friendly and rechargeable Light for Life™ flashlights, which are powered by ultracapacitors, not batteries, that last for the life of the flashlight. Currently, the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (USHTS) has only a single classification for flashlights, which subjects all flashlights, regardless of design or innovation, to a very high duty of 12.5 percent. We believe that, due to its unique technology and environmental benefits, as well as the cost savings that it could generate for our public agencies, the Light for Life™ should qualify for its own classification. Significantly, we are not aware of any domestic manufacturing of a product utilizing similar technology and we project that S. 2243 meets the cost parameters of the MTB process.

The current economic situation makes it imperative for this bill to be approved in Congress. More than ever, our customers expect high-quality products at affordable prices. Approval of the miscellaneous tariff bill will ensure that their expectations are fulfilled. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact me directly.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John F. Wicks', written over a horizontal line.

John F. Wicks  
Vice President, General Counsel  
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