

AMTAC

American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition

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December 2, 2009

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Sent via e-mail

RE: Opposition to S. 2360

Dear Chairman Baucus and Ranking Member Grassley:

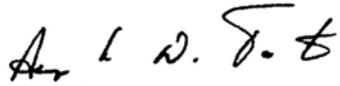
On behalf of the American Manufacturing Trade Action Coalition (AMTAC) I am writing to strongly oppose S. 2360. This legislation would temporarily suspend U.S. duties on certain fire retardant materials used to make mattresses.

We are opposed to this bill in that it grants duty relief to materials that are made here in the United States by domestic manufacturers. S. 2360, introduced by Senator Voinovich, would suspend the duty on a needle-punched nonwoven product used in mattress formation. This product directly competes with non-woven mattress barriers made by Milliken & Company of Spartanburg, South Carolina. As a result, we oppose the inclusion of S. 2360 in the final Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB) package.

Milliken & Company is a leading provider of flame resistant barrier materials to the mattress and upholstery markets. Milliken's non-woven barriers provide inherently flame retardant solutions that allow properly designed mattresses and foundations to comply with the national 16 CFR 1633 regulation that governs all mattresses sold in the United States. Milliken's offering to the mattress market includes thermal bonded high-loft non-wovens, needle-punch non-wovens, and multi-layer composites that combine their barriers with other materials.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment on S. 2360. We greatly appreciate your noting our opposition to this bill and urge the Finance Committee to exclude S. 2360 from any further consideration under the MTB process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aug. I. N. T. B." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Augustine Tantillo
Executive Director
AMTAC

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