From Richard F Looker
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S.2371: A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on artificial flowers of manmade fibers assembled as picks.

This bill is one in a series of 10 which when combined essentially extend the suspension of duty on artificial flowers enacted under HR 3310 in July of 2005 which became effective January of 2006 and will expire 12/31/ 2009 without the Finance Committee's assistance.

I am writing to you on behalf of Teters Floral Products in Bolivar Missouri, Teters is an importer and distributor of artificial flowers nationwide. Teters directly employees over 200 people and provides imported artificial flowers to thousands of retail outlets nationwide.

The duty on artificial flowers does not serve to protect any domestic industry; artificial flowers have not been produced in our country for over 25 years. The suspension of the duty has helped to keep Teters and its retail customers' prices low in what has and continues to be a difficult economy.

Over time Teters and the industry as a whole has demonstrated a consistent pattern of growth by offering product which is of increasing value to the end consumer which has resulted in increased direct employment and larger purchases of domestic supplies and services. An increase of 9% of the value of artificial flowers would be a serious detriment to our ability to provide greater value to the U.S. consumer.