



November 24, 2009

The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman
Senate Committee on Finance
215 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Grassley
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Finance
215 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: S. 2543 (Cantwell), A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain men's wading boots, valued over \$30/pair, with textile outer soles and uppers of leather or composition leather whose height from the bottom of the outer sole to the top of the upper does not exceed 9 inches (22.86 cm).

Dear Chairman Baucus and Ranking Member Grassley:

Outdoor Industry Association is the national trade association for the suppliers, manufacturers and retailer of active outdoor recreation products, including apparel, footwear and accessories. The outdoor industry contributes \$730 billion annually to the U.S. economy, supports nearly 6.5 million jobs across the United States and generates \$49 billion in national tax revenue every year.

On behalf of the more than 1200 OIA member businesses and the thousands of Americans they employ, I write to you in support of S. 2543, a bill to suspend temporarily the duty on certain men's wading boots,

S. 2543 is important legislation for the dozens of OIA member companies across the country that manufacture or sell these highly specialized footwear products, including Korkers Products, Simms Fishing Products, Cloudveil, and Patagonia, and will benefit the millions of Americans who use the boots for fishing and other outdoor activities.

As the U.S. economy continues to recover, OIA believes enactment of this tariff bill and several other MTBs introduced on behalf of OIA members are crucial to bolstering that recovery and creating new jobs in the outdoor industry and beyond. I ask that you add S. 2543 to the MTB package and ensure enactment this year by passing the package as soon as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this important legislation and I appreciate your consideration of my comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank Hugelmeyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Frank Hugelmeyer
President and Chief Executive Officer