



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. 2642 (Sessions), a bill to suspend temporarily the duty on man-made shells used in the manufacture of sleeping bags

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. 2642, a bill to suspend temporarily the duty on man-made shells used in the manufacture of sleeping bags.

S. 2642 is important legislation for OIA member companies across the country that manufacture sleeping bags in the United States, including Exxel Outdoors of Haleyville, AL. The duty suspension on sleeping bag shells will help lower costs for Exxel and other sleeping bag manufacturers, allowing them to expand their product offerings, employment opportunities and promotes manufacturing in the United States.

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. 2642 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 written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Frank Hugelmeyer
President and Chief Executive Officer