

# **SNF HOLDING COMPANY**

July 28, 2006

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Max Baucus  
Ranking Member  
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

**Attention: "MTB"**

Sent via email to: [mtb2006@finance-rep.senate.gov](mailto:mtb2006@finance-rep.senate.gov)

**Re: Public Comments in Support of Legislation to Suspend Temporarily  
the Duty on Methyl Acrylate, S. 3134**

Dear Senators Grassley and Baucus:

I write on behalf of our 547 employees at SNF Holding Company in Riceboro, Georgia to express our support for legislation which would temporarily suspend the duty on methyl acrylate. This legislation, S. 3134 was introduced in the Senate on May 25, 2006. These comments have been submitted to the Committee for inclusion in the public record pursuant to the press release issued by the Committee on July 11, 2006 which requested written comments on miscellaneous measures which were introduced in the 109th Congress that may be considered for inclusion in an omnibus miscellaneous tariff bill.

Today, SNF manufactures a variety of chemical products which include cationic flocculants which are used for application in municipal water treatment and industrial wastewater systems used throughout the United States. One of the chemicals which SNF converts to make cationic flocculants is dimethylamino ethylacrylate (ADAME). ADAME is made by combining methyl acrylate (MA) and dimethylaminoethanol. Today there is a 3.7% tariff on all imports of methyl acrylate which is made by a number of manufacturers in Asia, Europe and limited production in South America. To meet our manufacturing requirements we have had to import this product. The cost to our company in import duties paid equaled \$1,121,100. Of the countries that

produce and export this product, imports from Singapore enter at zero duty as a result of the U.S. - Singapore Free Trade Agreement and imports from South Africa enter without duty due to the country's designation as a developing country which provides them with GSP treatment.

The temporary duty suspension on imports of methyl acrylate would provide our company with significant savings and allow us to make our quality products available to the water treatment industry at a lower cost. These savings will allow us to remain competitive and to serve our customers efficiently.

It is our understanding that there is no current domestic production of methyl acrylate and therefore we believe that this legislation would not create economic hardship on any domestic industry or worker.

We believe the enactment of S. 3134 would provide savings and further economic benefits for our company and our workers.

In closing, we would respectfully request that the Committee include this legislation in the Omnibus Miscellaneous Tariff Bill of 2006 and would invite your staff to contact me or Mr. Ken Luke at SNF Holding Company at (912) 884-3366 to discuss any questions you may have about this legislation.

Thank you for providing us with this opportunity to submit written comments for the record.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nichols", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Peter W. Nichols  
President