

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

April 29, 2015

The Honorable R. Gil Kerlikowske
Commissioner
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20229

RE: Antidumping Order on Wooden Bedroom Furniture from China

Dear Commissioner Kerlikowske:

We write on behalf of our constituents who are members of the American Furniture Manufacturing Committee ("AFMC") located in North Carolina, New York, Virginia, and Vermont to seek assistance with regards to duty evasion on imports of wooden bedroom furniture from China. We first relayed our concerns to Customs and Border Protection ("CBP") in June of 2013 and remain concerned that there is persistent evasion of duties imposed on wooden bedroom furniture from China. Furniture manufacturers in our states have informed our offices that they continue to be harmed by dumping by some importers of wooden bedroom furniture from China who continue to evade duties owed on imports. We again seek your assistance to find a solution to this problem.

As a result of a petition filed by AFMC, the Department of Commerce imposed antidumping duties on imports of wooden bedroom furniture from China in 2005. These duties were renewed by the Department of Commerce and the International Trade Commission in 2010. Reports published by CBP pursuant to the Continued Dumping and Subsidy Offset Act ("CDSOA") demonstrate that hundreds of millions of dollars in antidumping duties on imports of wooden bedroom from China remain uncollected. On June 11, 2013, Congressional staff from our offices met with CBP officials to discuss what steps were being taken to resolve the duty collection problem. As a follow up, our offices sent questions to CBP and, on August 29, 2013, CBP provided a response to those questions, which we have attached for reference. CBP's response reveals that as of April 30, 2013, it had failed to collect \$369 million in antidumping duties assessed against imports of wooden bedroom furniture from China. Of that \$369 million in uncollected duties, \$216 million would have been distributed to members of AFMC and petition-supporters under the CDSOA. Since CBP's initial response to our inquiries, CBP published its CDSOA Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2013. This report stated that almost \$34 million in antidumping duties on wooden bedroom furniture from China went uncollected on assessments during FY2013.

AFMC informed our offices that they met with CBP officials from the Office of Administration and the Revenue Division on March 12, 2014 to discuss this issue, and what measures could be taken to improve duty collection going forward, including the use of enhanced bonding and single transaction bonds. At that meeting, Assistant Commissioner Eugene Schied and Bruce Ingalls, Director of the Revenue Division, indicated that CBP would provide AFMC with an updated response to the original Congressional questions regarding duty collection efforts and investigate the possibility of instituting additional bonding requirements for non-resident and new importers. AFMC informed our offices that CBP has yet to provide an updated response to those questions. In addition, on September 29, 2014, Mr. Glenn Prillaman, President and CEO of Stanly Furniture Company, sent Assistant Commissioner Schied and Mr. Ingalls a letter requesting the information that he was promised at the March 12, 2014 meeting. A copy of his letter is attached. Mr. Prillaman has informed us that CBP has not yet responded to his letter.

We request that CBP provide our offices with an updated response to our June 2013 inquiries. This response should include the total amounts of uncollected and collected duties for FY2013 and FY2014. A copy of our June 2013 inquiries is attached. In addition, we request that CBP provide an explanation of the efforts taken to collect the uncollected duties and provide a report on steps that will be taken to reduce future duty evasion of this order. We would like to receive this information in a timely manner. CBP has an obligation to enforce our trade laws and put forth its best efforts to collect these duties and protect our domestic manufacturers from predatory practices. Due to the scale of this duty evasion and its resulting harm to our domestic industry, it is imperative that CBP prioritize duty collection of wooden bedroom furniture from China and ensure that sufficient policies are in place to prevent future duty evasion.

We respectfully request that you contact Anna Taylor in Senator Schumer's office or Ann Woods Hawks in Senator Burr's office at your earliest convenience to arrange for a meeting to discuss these matters. Ms. Taylor can be reached at 202-224-4422 and Ms. Hawks can be reached at 202-224-3152. We would like for our staff to meet with the appropriate CBP staff who are responsible for antidumping duty collection and the bonding requirements in antidumping cases. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.

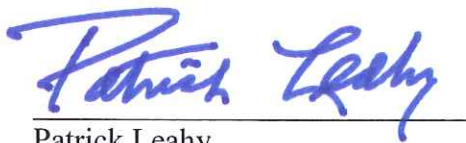
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "RB" followed by a flourish.

Richard Burr
U.S. Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charles Sch" followed by a flourish.

Charles E. Schumer
U.S. Senator



Patrick Leahy
U.S. Senator



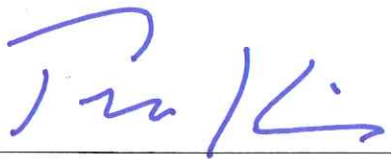
Bernard Sanders
U.S. Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
U.S. Senator



Mark R. Warner
U.S. Senator



Tim Kaine
U.S. Senator



Thom Tillis
U.S. Senator



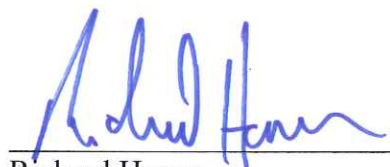
Virginia Foxx
U.S. Representative



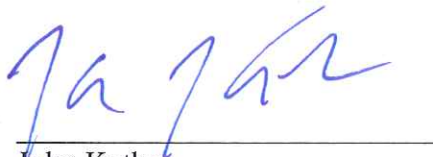
Peter Welch
U.S. Representative



Morgan Griffith
U.S. Representative



Richard Hanna
U.S. Representative



John Katko
U.S. Representative