

December 14, 2007

The Honorable David Obey  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Room H-218, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate.  
S-131, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Room H-218, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. Senate  
S-131, The Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairmen Obey and Byrd and Ranking Members Lewis and Cochran:

On behalf of the undersigned agricultural, manufacturing, retail and service industries representing a substantial portion of the U.S. economy, we are writing to urge you to reject proposals to include the so-called Continued Dumping and Subsidy Offset Act (CDSOA) in the omnibus appropriations package. This proposal, which would take U.S. Government-collected antidumping duties and disburse them to a small group of individual companies, has been ruled unconstitutional by U.S. courts and violative of U.S. international obligations in the World Trade Organization (WTO). If reinserted into U.S. law, U.S. farm and manufacturing exports will face massive retaliatory sanctions by our trading partners. At the same time, the adverse effects of the CDSOA on America's downstream manufacturers and consumers are well documented. The General Accounting Office (GAO) found that this provision, when part of U.S. law, provided roughly 50-percent of the proceeds to just five large companies.

We strongly oppose the inclusion of the CDSOA proposal given the major negative impact it will have on U.S. exports and the U.S. economy. We strongly urge you to reject its inclusion in the omnibus package.

Respectfully,

Alcoa Inc.  
American Apparel & Footwear Association  
American Institute for International Steel  
Business Roundtable  
Cargill, Incorporated  
Caterpillar Inc.  
Consuming Industries Trade Action Coalition  
Corn Refiners Association.  
Eastman Kodak Company  
Emergency Committee for American Trade

Ford Motor Company  
Grocery Manufacturers Association  
Honda North America  
Hyundai Motor America  
J.C. Penney Corporation, Inc.  
Mazzetta Company, LLC  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Cattlemen's Beef Association  
National Fisheries Institute  
National Foreign Trade Council  
National Pork Producers Council  
National Retail Federation  
Nissan North America  
North American Export Grain Association  
Northwest Horticultural Council  
Retail Industry Leaders Association  
Target  
Toyota North America  
Travel Goods Association  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce  
Value City Furniture  
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.

Cc: The Honorable Charles B. Rangel, Chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means  
The Honorable Jim McCrery, Ranking Member, House Committee on Ways and Means  
The Honorable Max Baucus, Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance  
The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Finance