Dear Speaker Boehner:

As Members who are very concerned about the health of the manufacturing sector and the growth of jobs in America, we are writing to support the Miscellaneous Tariff Bill (MTB) process initiated by the Ways and Means Committee on March 30 and its prompt completion this year. As you know, the duty suspension and reduction provisions enacted in the 111th Congress are set to expire at year’s end and would amount to a tax increase. Therefore, Congress must take swift action to prevent this tax hike that will hurt U.S. manufacturing and jeopardize U.S. jobs across the United States.

The MTB has been an important tool for making American manufacturing more competitive for 30 years by suspending import taxes on necessary manufacturing inputs not available in this country. Given the fragile state of our economic recovery, the MTB remains critical to expanding manufacturing employment. In other words, it’s a jobs bill. The MTB has been estimated to support 90,000 American jobs, increase U.S. production by $4.6 billion and expand U.S. GDP by $3.5 billion.

In lowering the cost of manufacturing in America, the MTB increases the attractiveness of the United States as a place to do business. As the National Association of Manufacturers has documented, it is already 20 percent more expensive to manufacture in America relative to our major competitors. The way to build manufacturing in America and create high-paying jobs is to reduce those costs—not to raise them. This bill helps to lower manufacturing costs and provides our manufacturers with the certainty they need to invest and reinvest in their U.S.-based productions and operations.

Over the past two years, there has been paralysis on moving forward on the MTB over whether or not MTB provisions are prohibited as “limited tariff benefits” under House rules. As fiscal conservatives, we appreciate these concerns. However, we believe it is an error to view duty suspension bills in that manner. Unlike spending earmarks, as they are sometimes erroneously characterized, a duty suspension included in the MTB is available to any U.S. manufacturer—including small businesses—importing the covered product because it is not available domestically. Downstream producers, distribution service providers, and consumers benefit as well from the tax reductions.
Moreover, MTB provisions are vetted through the most rigorously transparent process undertaken by Congress. Members are required to make the appropriate disclosures, and all forms and submissions are available online.

Therefore, we urge you to work with the Ways & Means Committee to take swift action to move forward and complete MTB legislation as soon as possible in 2012 to prevent a tax hike on U.S. manufacturing and save U.S. jobs.

We thank you in advance for consideration of our request and look forward to working with you on the MTB legislation in 2012.

Sincerely,

Tom Reed
Member of Congress

Lou Barletta
Member of Congress

Dan Benishek
Member of Congress

Larry Buschon
Member of Congress

Francisco "Quico" Canseco
Member of Congress

Rick Crawford
Member of Congress

Rick Berg
Member of Congress

Charlie Bass
Member of Congress

Mo Brooks
Member of Congress

Ann Marie Buerkle
Member of Congress

Chip Gallego
Member of Congress

Robert Dold
Member of Congress
Allen West  
Member of Congress

Todd Young  
Member of Congress

Mark Amodei  
Member of Congress

Jeff Denham  
Member of Congress

Richard Nugent  
Member of Congress

Marlin Stutzman  
Member of Congress

Randy Hultgren  
Member of Congress

Martha Roby  
Member of Congress

Tom Marino  
Member of Congress

Steve Womack  
Member of Congress

Rob Woodall  
Member of Congress

Bob Turner  
Member of Congress

Blake Farenthold  
Member of Congress

Mike Pompeo  
Member of Congress

James Lankford  
Member of Congress

Morgan Griffith  
Member of Congress

Steve Southerland  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable David Camp