

JOINT INDUSTRY GROUP

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May 16, 2002

Honorable Mary Landrieu
United States Senate
724 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: Inclusion of S 2121 in the Senate Trade Package

Dear Senator Landrieu:

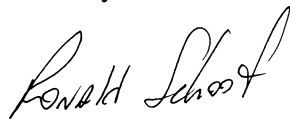
I am writing to you on behalf of the Joint Industry Group (JIG) to ask for your support to include S. 2121, duty drawback legislation, into H.R. 3009, as reported in the Senate, to the package of trade legislation currently being debated on the floor of the Senate. And, of course, we certainly appreciate the work done by you and Jason Matthews and Jason Schendle of your staff in cosponsoring this drawback bill.

Including this duty drawback bill into the trade promotion legislation is very germane since it too is a trade promotion program. S. 2121 will place companies on a level playing field with foreign competitors by better aligning our drawback laws with parallel programs in foreign countries that allow a complete exemption of all duties and fees for subsequently exported products (e.g., sectorial program in Mexico). As you know, drawback allows companies to receive a refund for duties, taxes or fees paid on re-exported goods or on materials that are included in the production of a final product to be exported. As an export promotion program, it is within the spirit of the original intent of the drawback law that the fees associated with importing should be refunded. To limit the refund of duties and fees blunts the law and prohibits the full realization of the export promotion benefit.

JIG is a member-driven coalition comprised of Fortune 500 companies, manufacturers, customs brokers, importers, exporters, trade associations, law firms, and accounting firms actively involved in international trade. JIG frequently engages the Congress and the Administration on a variety of international trade-related issues. We work particularly close with the U.S. Customs Service and Congress to promote trade policy that effectively supports Customs' dual mission of border enforcement and trade facilitation.

In general, the JIG supports any legislation that streamlines and simplifies the drawback procedures. We also have supported similar legislation in the House of Representatives. Therefore, we respectfully ask for your efforts to include drawback legislation in the Senate TPA bill.

Sincerely,



Chairman
Joint Industry Group

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