

*House Ways  
and Means  
Committee  
Releases List  
of Bills Under  
Consideration  
for Miscellaneous  
Tariff  
Legislation:  
Seeks Public  
Comment*

On February 25, 2008, the House Ways and Means Committee released its list of House bills under consideration for inclusion in omnibus miscellaneous tariff legislation. The list contains over 700 bills seeking the temporary reduction or elimination of tariffs imposed on certain imported products, duty refunds on specific importations, and other technical corrections to the tariff schedule.

The House Ways and Means Committee has jurisdiction over revenue measures generally, and the tariff schedule in particular. The intent of miscellaneous tariff legislation is “to help U.S. manufacturers compete at home and abroad by temporarily suspending or reducing duties on intermediate products or materials that are not made domestically, or where there is no domestic opposition.”

In November of last year, the House Ways and Means Committee’s Subcommittee on Trade’s Chairman Sander Levin (D-MI) and Ranking Member Wally Herger (R-CA) announced that the Trade Subcommittee was requiring all Members of Congress who wished to introduce tariff reduction or elimination legislation, to do so before Friday, December 14, 2007, if the Members intended for their bills to be included in omnibus miscellaneous tariff legislation.

Accordingly, U.S. companies that import intermediate or other noncontroversial products worked with House Members to introduce legislation intended to reduce costs and make U.S. products more competitive in the global marketplace. It is anticipated that the Senate Finance Committee will announce a similar deadline soon.

The large volume of bills introduced for consideration comes as a surprise to many in light of recent changes to the Rules of the House of Representatives which require House Members to provide written disclosure statements to the Ways and Means Committee’s Chairman and Ranking Member for any bill that contains a limited tariff benefit – defined by the House Rules as a provision modifying the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States in a manner that benefits ten or fewer entities. It was anticipated that the disclosure requirement would discourage the introduction of such bills.

To view the list or details on how to submit comments electronically, click here <http://waysandmeans.house.gov/MoreInfo.asp?section=41>.

The deadline to submit written comments to the House Ways and Means Committee, either in support of or in opposition to the bills, is **April 10, 2008**.

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