

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20436

**MEMORANDUM ON PROPOSED TARIFF LEGISLATION  
of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress<sup>1</sup>**

[Date approved: April 8, 2010]<sup>2</sup>

**Bill No. and sponsor:** S. 1815 (Mr. Carl Levin of Michigan).

**Proponent name,<sup>3</sup> location:** Howard Miller Clock Company, Zeeland, MI.

**Other bills on product (111<sup>th</sup> Congress only):** None.

**Nature of bill:** Temporary duty suspension through December 31, 2011.

**Retroactive effect:** None.

**Suggested article description(s) for enactment (including appropriate HTS subheading(s)):**

Mechanical clock movements (provided for in subheading 9109.90.60) for the production of grandfather clocks, wall clocks, and mantel clocks.

**Check one:**      Same as that in bill as introduced.  
                   Different from that in bill as introduced (see Technical comments section).

**Product information, including uses/applications and source(s) of imports:**

The subject clock movements are intricate mechanical devices that synchronize accurate timekeeping with a musical melody. A segment of the melody is played every quarter hour. The melody is played through a series of hammers that are lifted in proper sequence to strike a series of steel rods in a chime rod assembly (separate from the mechanical clock movement). Each steel rod is designed to produce a specific musical note. The movements include an option to silence the melody during nighttime hours.

The movements are powered by one of two methods. First, a key is used by the consumer to wind the spring. The spring is designed to operate the movement for at least seven days. The second method of power is by hanging weights from a cable or chain. Similar to the spring method, the weights are wound up every seven days. Accurate timekeeping is maintained by either a delicate escapement or a regulating pendulum.

Fine quality movements are produced exclusively in Germany, and the subject movements are imported from Germany.

**Estimated effect on customs revenue for the subject product classifiable in HTS subheading 9109.90.60:**

<sup>1</sup> Industry analyst preparing report: Ralph Watkins (202-205-3492); Tariff Affairs contact: Daniel Shepherdson (202-205-2598).

<sup>2</sup> Access to an electronic copy of this memorandum is available at [http://www.usitc.gov/tariff\\_affairs/congress\\_reports/](http://www.usitc.gov/tariff_affairs/congress_reports/).

<sup>3</sup> The sponsor identified four additional beneficiaries of this bill. USITC staff sent inquiries to the additional beneficiaries and received responses from one. That company submitted a written representation that it would benefit from the bill. In addition, USITC staff identified 10 potential additional beneficiaries, one of which submitted a written representation that it would benefit from the bill.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Col. 1-General rate of duty <sup>a</sup>	30¢ each + 4.3% (4.7%)				
Estimated value <i>dutiable</i> imports <sup>b</sup>	\$2,800,000	\$2,800,000	\$2,800,000	\$2,800,000	\$2,800,000
Customs revenue loss <sup>c</sup>	\$131,600	\$131,600	\$131,600	\$131,600	\$131,600

a/ The ad valorem equivalent rate of duty (4.7 percent) was derived by applying the compound rate of duty to total U.S. imports in 2009.

b/ Dutiable import estimates were provided by industry sources.

c/ At the request of Congress, customs revenue loss is provided for 5 years, although the effective period of the proposed legislation may differ.

**Contacts with domestic firms/organizations (including the proponent):**

Name of firm/organization	Date contacted	Claim US makes same or competing product(s)?	Submission attached?	Opposition noted?
		(Yes/No)		
Howard Miller Clock Company (Proponent) Mike Wallace, 616-772-7277 ext. 218	12/1/2009	No	No	No
Black Forest Imports, Inc. Peter Lickl, <a href="mailto:peter@blackforestimports.com">peter@blackforestimports.com</a>	12/1/2009	No	No	No
Bradford Clocks 570-427-4493	12/2/2009	No	No	No
Brandywine Clock Gineon Stolzhus, 610-273-3395	12/2/2009	No	No	No
Butterworth Clocks Mark Butterworth, 563-263-759	12/2/2009	No	No	No
Clock Works <a href="mailto:clockworks@clockworks.com">clockworks@clockworks.com</a>	12/1/2009	No	No	No
Hermle Black Forest Clocks Bill Mangold, 434-946-7751	12/1/2009	No	No	No
Klockit 800-556-2548	12/1/2009	No	No	No
Merritt Antiques Kim Pribish, 610-689-9541 ext. 254	12/1/2009	No	No	No
New Hampshire Clocks Donna, 1-800-808-9871, <a href="mailto:donna@nhclocks.com">donna@nhclocks.com</a>	12/1/2009	No	No	No
Primex 800-544-0909	12/2/2009	No	No	No
R & M Imports Randy Thatcher, 513-897-5015	12/2/2009	No	No	No

Name of firm/organization	Date contacted	Claim US makes same or competing product(s)?	Submission attached?	Opposition noted?
		(Yes/No)		
Ridgeway Clock Co. John Oren, <a href="mailto:rwsales@ridgewayclocks.com">rwsales@ridgewayclocks.com</a>	12/1/2009	No	No	No
Wood Ease 866-648-3334	12/1/2009	No	No	No

**Technical comments:<sup>4</sup>**

Based on conversations with the sponsor’s staff, the Commission staff suggests that the article description on page 1 of this report be used in the proposed duty suspension in order to limit the duty suspension to mechanical clock movements that are used in the production of grandfather, wall, and mantel clocks.

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<sup>4</sup> The Commission may express an opinion on the HTS classification of a product to facilitate consideration of the bill. However, by law, only the U.S. Customs Service is authorized to issue a binding ruling on this matter. The Commission believes that the U.S. Customs Service should be consulted prior to enactment of the bill.

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1815

To suspend temporarily the duty on certain clock movements.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 20, 2009

Mr. LEVIN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

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## A BILL

To suspend temporarily the duty on certain clock movements.

1        *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. CERTAIN CLOCK MOVEMENTS.**

4        (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 99 of  
5 the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States is  
6 amended by inserting in numerical sequence the following  
7 new heading:

“	9902.01.00	Clock movements (provided for in subheading 9109.90.60) .....	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2011	”.
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8        (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
9 subsection (a) applies to goods entered, or withdrawn from

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- 1 warehouse for consumption, on or after the 15th day after
- 2 the date of the enactment of this Act.

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