

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: May 3, 2010]<sup>2</sup>

**Bill No. and sponsor:** S. 1920 (Mr. Pat Roberts of Kansas).

**Proponent name,<sup>3</sup> location:** Payless ShoeSource, Inc., Topeka, KS.

**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)):**

Tennis shoes, basketball shoes, gym shoes, training shoes and the like, the foregoing with outer soles and uppers of rubber or plastics (provided for in subheading 6402.99.31).

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

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

The bill covers athletic “low-top” shoes of rubber or plastics for adults and children regardless of gender. The primary source of U.S. imports of the subject footwear is China. China supplied approximately \$270.4 million of the \$318.7 million in dutiable imports under HTS statistical reporting number 6402.99.3115 in 2009.

<sup>1</sup> Industry analyst preparing report: Vincent DeSapio (202-205-3435); Tariff Affairs contact: Jan Summers (202-205-2605).

<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 and proponent stated there are more than ten beneficiaries of this bill, including numerous retailers and suppliers.

**Estimated effect on customs revenue for the subject product classifiable in HTS subheading 6402.99.31:**

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
<del>Col. 1-General rate of duty</del>					
Col. 1-General rate of duty	6%	6%	6%	6%	6%
Estimated value <i>dutiable</i> imports <sup>a</sup>	\$319,000,000	\$319,000,000	\$319,000,000	\$319,000,000	\$319,000,000
Customs revenue loss <sup>b</sup>	\$19,140,000	\$19,140,000	\$19,140,000	\$19,140,000	\$19,140,000

a/ Dutiable import estimates were provided by industry sources.

b/ 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)		
Payless ShoeSource, Inc. (Proponent) Curtis Sneden, 785-295-6615	01/13/2010	No	Yes	No
Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America Matt Priest, 202-737-5660	01/14/2010	No	Yes	No
American Apparel and Footwear Association Nate Herman, 703-797-9062	01/16/2010	No	Yes	No
Rubber and Plastic Footwear Manufacturers Association Mitchell J. Cooper, 202-331-1858	01/19/2010	No	No	No

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

It is suggested that the article description of the proposed heading be amended to read as shown on page 1, to conform more closely with the scope of the applicable chapter 64 provision. The proponent of the bill has indicated a willingness to narrow the product description in the bill so as to result in a lower customs revenue loss but has not provided precise information on the real product of interest. The article description shown on page 1 would cover all merchandise now imported under HTS statistical reporting number 6402.99.3115.

<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. 1920

To suspend temporarily the duty on certain sports footwear.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 26, 2009

Mr. ROBERTS 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 sports footwear.

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 SPORTS FOOTWEAR.**

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	Tennis shoes, basketball shoes, gym shoes, training shoes, and the like, the foregoing with outer soles of rubber or plastics (provided for in subheading 6402.99.31) ...	Free	No change	No change	On or before 12/31/2011	”.
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1       (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
2 subsection (a) applies to goods entered, or withdrawn from  
3 warehouse for consumption, on or after the 15th day after  
4 the date of the enactment of this Act.

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