

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20436

**MEMORANDUM ON PROPOSED TARIFF LEGISLATION
of the 111th Congress¹**

[Date approved: March 5, 2010]²

Bill No. and sponsor: S. 2211 (Mr. Christopher J. Dodd of Connecticut and Joseph I. Lieberman of Connecticut).

Proponent name,³ location: Conair Corporation, Stamford, CT.

Other bills on product (111th 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)):

Electrothermic steam hair straighteners, each with removable water reservoir, the foregoing having mechanical controls with at least three but not more than six settings to control the volume of water released from the reservoir into the steam chamber (provided for in subheading 8516.32.00).

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 item is a beauty product used to straighten human hair. This particular hair straightener device uses ionic steam provided by a removable water reservoir for ionic steam conditioning. Most other hair straighteners do not possess a water reservoir component. U.S. imports of this product are obtained principally from China.

¹ Industry analyst preparing report: Michelle Koscielski (202-205-3489); Tariff Affairs contact: Jan Summers (202-205-2605).

² Access to an electronic copy of this memorandum is available at http://www.usitc.gov/tariff_affairs/congress_reports/.

³ The sponsor/proponent did not identify any additional beneficiaries of this bill.

Estimated effect on customs revenue for the subject product classifiable in HTS subheading 8516.32.00:

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Col. 1-General rate of duty	3.9%	3.9%	3.9%	3.9%	3.9%
Estimated value <i>dutiable</i> imports ^a	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000
Customs revenue loss ^b	\$54,600	\$54,600	\$54,600	\$54,600	\$54,600

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?
Conair Corporation (Proponent) Mr. John Demilt, 203-351-9453	11/30/2009	No	No	No
Helen of Troy Gerald Rubin, 915-225-8000	12/02/2009	No	No	No
National Presto Industries MaryJo Cohen, 715-839-2121	12/03/2009	No	Yes	Yes
Spectrum Brands Ms. Tracy Wrycha, 608-275-4404	12/02/2009	No	Yes	Yes
Sally Beauty Company Ms. Pam Roberts, 940-898-7500	12/03/2009	No	No	No

Technical comments:⁴

It is suggested that the article description of the proposed heading be worded as shown on page 1.

⁴ 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. 2211

To suspend temporarily the duty on certain steam hair straighteners.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 29, 2009

Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To suspend temporarily the duty on certain steam hair
straighteners.

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 STEAM HAIR STRAIGHTENERS.**

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	Steam hair straighteners each with removable water reservoir, having mechanical controls with at least 3 but not more than 6 settings to control the volume of water released from the reservoir into the steam chamber (provided for in subheading 8516.32.00)	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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