MEMORANDUM ON PROPOSED TARIFF LEGISLATION of the 109th Congress

[Date approved: September 11, 2006]

Bill No. and sponsor: S. 3124 (Mr. Patrick J. Leahy, Vermont).

Proponent name, location: SnowSports Industries America, McLean, VA.

Other bills on product (109th Congress only): None.

Nature of bill: Extension of existing temporary provision, as modified, through December 31, 2009.

Retroactive effect: None.

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

Ski boots, cross country ski footwear or snowboard boots, the foregoing valued over $12/pair, with outer soles of rubber, plastics, leather or composition leather and uppers of textile materials (provided for in subheading 6404.11.90).

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 bill covers specific boots with textile uppers that are designed for snow sports–namely, ski boots, cross country ski footwear, and snowboard boots valued at over $12 per pair, whether for men, women, or children. The existing provision has provided a duty reduction to the subject goods; this bill would extend the provision but as a duty suspension measure. China is the leading supplier of these imports.
Estimated effect on customs revenue:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HTS subheading: 6404.11.90</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Col. 1-General rate of duty of duty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated value of dutiable imports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Customs revenue loss</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source of estimated dutiable import data: Commission and industry estimates based on trade data provided by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of firm/organization</th>
<th>Date contacted</th>
<th>Claim US makes same or competing product(s)?</th>
<th>Submission attached?</th>
<th>Opposition noted?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SnowSports Industries America (Proponent) David Ingemie, President, 703-556-9020</td>
<td>07/11/2006</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary Katherine J. Mueller, Counsel, 202-861-3407</td>
<td>07/12/2006</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rubber and Plastic Footwear Manufacturers Association Mitchell Cooper, Counsel, 202-331-1848</td>
<td>07/5/2006</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Apparel and Footwear Association Nate Herman, 703-797-9062</td>
<td>07/5/2006</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Footwear Distributors and Retailers of America Peter T. Mangione, President, 202-737-5660</td>
<td>07/24/2006</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
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Technical comments:

To be more consistent with normal drafting practices in the HTS, and to take into account the expansion of scope of the duty suspension, it is suggested that the article description for heading 9902.64.04 should be modified to appear as shown on page 1.

3 The estimated data for dutiable imports, and thus the customs revenue losses shown, reflect the expansion of the scope of the existing duty suspension for these goods under heading 9902.64.04 that expires on December 31, 2006.

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.
To suspend temporarily the duty on ski boots, cross country ski footwear and snowboard boots.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 25, 2006

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

A BILL

To suspend temporarily the duty on ski boots, cross country ski footwear and snowboard boots.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN EXISTING DUTY SUSPENSIONS AND REDUCTIONS.

(a) Other Modifications.—

(1) Snowboard boots.—Heading 9902.64.04 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States is amended—
(A) by striking “Snowboard” and inserting “Ski boots, cross country ski footwear and snowboard”;

(B) by striking “4%” and inserting “Free”; and

(C) by striking “12/31/2006” and inserting “12/31/2009”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) apply to goods entered, or withdrawn from warehouse for consumption, on or after the 15th day after the date of the enactment of this Act.