

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 23, 2005

The Honorable Carlos M. Gutierrez
Secretary of Commerce
U.S. Department of Commerce
14th Street and Constitution Avenue. N.W.
Washington, DC 20230

Dear Secretary Gutierrez:

We are writing to you to express our support for the Department of Commerce's consideration of a petition related to the composition of imported Chinese candles. Several domestic candle-producing companies in Syracuse, New York have alleged that the People's Republic of China is attempting to circumvent 108.3 percent antidumping duty rate imposed on petroleum wax candles.

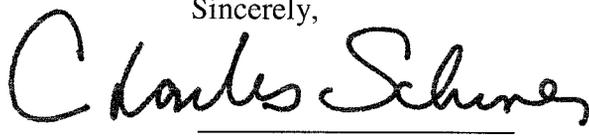
According to the National Candle Association, the Chinese candle producers and U.S. importers have engaged in widespread and aggressive efforts to circumvent the Antidumping Duty Order on petroleum wax candles from the China by falsely claiming the candles are primarily composed of petroleum.

Syracuse used to be one of the world's prime producers of candles, yet their market has steadily declined since the early 1980s – primarily due to Chinese trade practices. Muench-Kreuzer, Will & Baumer, and the Cathedral Candle Companies, all located in Syracuse, have alleged that the Chinese have incorrectly claimed their products to be primarily palm/vegetable wax based, and thus have successfully avoided paying antidumping duties. If the Chinese continue to circumvent the Order will cause irreparable harm to these companies, and to domestic candle producers in general. It is crucial that you keep the current duties in place.

In a world where the Chinese do not always play by the rules in trade matters, it is important to ensure a remedy when they engage in unfair trade practices. We urge you to take under careful consideration of the inquiry issued by the National Candle Association, which merely seeks a determination whether the Order is being circumvented. If it is found that the Order is being circumvented, we urge you to proceed in accordance with the law.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

cc:

Rhonda Keenum (Acting) Under Secretary of International Trade
Joseph Spetrini, (Acting) Assistant Secretary for Import Administration