

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

September 6, 2018

The Honorable Robert E. Lighthizer  
United States Trade Representative  
600 17th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20508

Dear Ambassador Lighthizer:

We are writing on behalf of Hussey Seating Company in North Berwick, Maine, to voice our concern about the impact of a Section 301 investigation (Docket no. USTR-2018-0026) initiated by the Office of the United States Trade Representative on June 20, 2018. Businesses in Maine, like Hussey Seating, are already suffering at the expense of previous tariffs imposed by the Administration, and we request your consideration and immediate assistance to remove three tariff subheadings from the proposed supplemental \$200 billion tariff action list.

Hussey Seating is a 183-year old, family-owned business that manufactures bleachers and auditorium seating for distribution across the globe. As a major competitor in the industry, the company has already seen its prices for domestically sourced steel, aluminum, and other parts dramatically increase because of earlier Section 232 trade actions by the Department of Commerce.

Further measures like this proposed Section 301 action will hurt Hussey's ability to compete because the custom molds and tools they use to make their products exist only in China. To relocate or replicate these products will cause Hussey to incur higher costs as it locks in half of its contracts well before beginning new projects. Subjecting key products to new tariffs will disrupt its supply chain and cause irreparable harm to its long-term standing in its industry.

In addition to the unfortunate timing of these newly proposed tariffs, we note that the manufacturing techniques being investigated do not fall under the Administration's self-identified most significant sectors in the "Made in China 2025" program. In fact, the company maintains the intellectual property rights for these particular products. Due to the disproportionate economic harm that imposing duties on these products would cause Hussey Seating, we strongly urge you to remove the following tariff subheadings from the Annex:

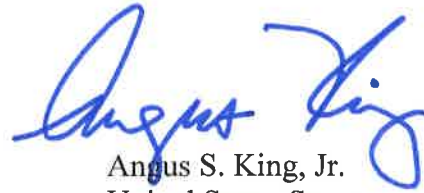
- 9401.71.0031 Seats: Upholstered: Other
- 9401.79.0050 Seats: Other: Other
- 9401.90.5081 Seats: Parts: Other

Thank you for your attention on this matter. Please feel free to have your staff contact Michael DiRoma (202-224-2523), Lauren Pfingstag (202-228-1466), Kelliann Blazek (202-225-6116), and Philip Swartzfager (202-225-6306) with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



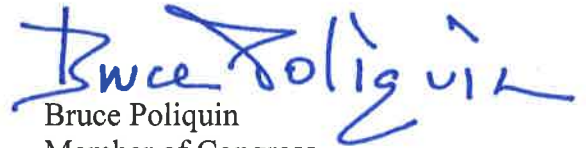
Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress



Bruce Poliquin  
Member of Congress