

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

September 13, 2011

Dear Colleague:

As you know, the current challenges of our economy continue to make it difficult for many of our constituents to make ends meet. In this economic environment, Congress should take every effort to alleviate financial burdens on our constituents. One prime example is tariffs on footwear. As it currently stands, the U.S. Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) applies the highest rates of duty (as high as 48%) to the lowest-cost shoes, such as canvas shoes for children, while most high-end leather footwear, such as dress loafers, are subject to much lower rates (around 8%). These tariffs were originally applied to protect domestically manufactured shoes that are no longer made in the United States. This means that nearly half the price of a new pair of school shoes is comprised of hidden federal taxes whose original purpose was to protect domestic manufacturing of products that are no longer manufactured here.

To fix this problem we, together with Kevin Brady (TX-8), Chairman of the Ways & Means Trade Subcommittee and Earl Blumenauer (OR-3), have introduced H.R. 2697, the *Affordable Footwear Act (AFA)*. This legislation will correct the regressive nature of the HTS and suspend for a period of three years these unnecessarily high import duties on a basic necessity that every family must buy.

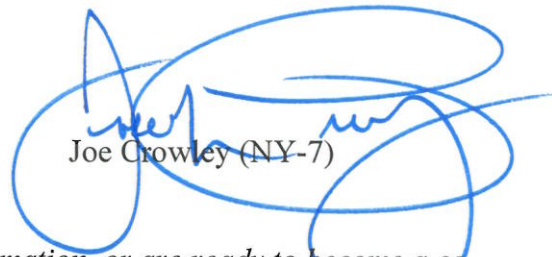
This legislation has a history of strong bi-partisan support, with more than 150 Members co-sponsoring in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress. Whether you were a cosponsor in a previous Congress or are a new Member, we urge you now to join us in helping the millions of hardworking families who will benefit from the AFA.

This bill means important and immediate tax relief for every consumer. We, and your constituents, appreciate your support and look forward to passage of the *Affordable Footwear Act* soon.

Sincerely,



Lynn Jenkins, CPA (KS-2)



Joe Crowley (NY-7)

*If you have any questions, would like additional information, or are ready to become a co-sponsor; your staff may contact Eric Schmutz in Representative Jenkins' office (202-225-6601) or Jeremy Woodrum in Representative Crowley's office (202-225-3965).*