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May 8, 2013

Mr. Douglas Bell
Chairman, Trade Policy Staff Committee
Office of the U.S. Trade Representative
600 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20508

Dear Mr. Bell:

SFIA, formerly known as the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association, represents over 500 manufacturers, retailers and marketers in the sports products industry. SFIA members have over 3,000 manufacturing facilities, business centers, and distribution centers that employ more than 375,000 people in the United States. The sporting goods industry generates more than \$74 billion in U.S. wholesale revenue annually and \$15 billion internationally.

The U.S. sporting goods and fitness equipment industry support all aspects of the proposed TTIP. In particular, SFIA supports the elimination of tariffs on bilateral trade in our sector, efforts to promote greater transatlantic regulatory compatibility, and enhanced customs cooperation.

Regarding tariffs, SFIA's objective is very simple: we urge that all sports and fitness equipment (HS 9506) be scheduled for immediate duty elimination in both the EU and the U.S. tariff staging schedules. Similarly, we support the immediate elimination of EU and U.S. duties on athletic apparel and footwear.

We hope these industry views are helpful to the U.S. negotiating team. Please let us know if you have any questions regarding our TTIP objectives.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Cove
President and Chief Executive Officer