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July 20, 2006

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
Chairman, Senate Finance Committee  
United States Senate  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Attention "MTB"  
[mtb2006@finance.rep.senate.gov](mailto:mtb2006@finance.rep.senate.gov)

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Dear Chairman Grassley:

On behalf of Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc., I am writing **in support of S. 2505**, a bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS) for the purpose of suspending the tariff for a specific valve component in metered dose inhalers (MDI) used as the oral delivery system for the pharmaceutical Combivent®.

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**Background:**

Combivent® is used by more than 2 million U.S. patients each year. It is a prescription product which provides rapid onset of action for immediate symptom relief of those suffering from an advanced form of asthma called chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Inc. manufactures approximately 12 million Combivent® units per year. These units are manufactured out of our facility in Ridgefield, Connecticut and then packaged at our facility in Columbus, Ohio.

The unique valve used in the Combivent® inhaler is produced by 3M in Clitheroe, England and shipped to the United States where it is inserted into the MDI device. The MDI is then packaged with the Combivent® canister, labeled and made ready for distribution.

**Economic Benefit:**

The Combivent® production lines provide important jobs in the United States both directly and indirectly. Obviously the assembly and packaging of the product provides jobs, but so does the manufacture of other component parts. For example the majority of the canisters containing Combivent® are manufactured by Presspart in Cary, North Carolina and the gas used to pressurize Combivent® is produced by Honeywell in Baton Rouge, New Orleans.

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Tariff Suspension Criteria:

The Combivent® valve complies with all suspension criteria particularly:

- There are no other domestic producers
- Total duty paid is under \$500,000.00 per year
- The product is unique
- The product provides humanitarian benefits
- The product creates domestic jobs
- The product benefits industry

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristen D.W. Morris". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Kristen D.W. Morris  
Vice President, Government Affairs and Public Policy

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KDWM/bas