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August 15, 2006

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley  
Chairman  
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance  
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Re: **Miscellaneous Trade and Tariff Legislation**

Dear Chairman Grassley:

I am writing on behalf of E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company (“DuPont”) in regard to legislation pending before the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress which, if enacted, would provide for the temporary suspension of duties for certain products. DuPont is opposed to a specific bill, S. 3070, to suspend temporarily the duty on certain aramid chopped fiber. Introduced May 25, 2006 by Senator Allard, the bill seeks to amend Subchapter II of Chapter 99 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States by inserting a new heading, 9902.90.30, for certain aramid chopped fiber provided for in subheading 5503.10.90, as duty free through December 31, 2009.

DuPont is a science company committed to creating sustainable solutions essential to a better, safer, healthier life for people everywhere. We offer a wide range of innovative products and services for markets including agriculture and nutrition, electronics, communication; safety and protection; home and construction; transportation and apparel.

DuPont scientist Stephanie L. Kwolek developed the first liquid crystal polymer that provided the basis for Kevlar® para aramid fiber, which the Company introduced in 1972. Five times the tensile strength of steel, the fiber is perhaps best known for its use in bullet and knife resistant body armor; however, it is used in a wide variety of other applications and product forms, including automotive and aerospace. DuPont produces para aramids in a wide spectrum of product types, e.g., yarn, pulp, paper, staple and fabric. Within the United States, DuPont manufactures para aramids in Richmond, Virginia at which location is also housed its business center.

In addition to producing para aramids to meet the needs of today’s consumer, DuPont remains committed to new product development. At our facility in Richmond, DuPont has dedicated employees engaged in research and development, who are actively pursuing increased product improvements and end use applications.

At present, there is sufficient capacity within the United States of para aramids to meet customer and end-user needs. Indeed, DuPont has been in discussions with Gates, the proponent of S. 3070, regarding supplying them a comparable product to Teijin's Technora® aramid chopped fiber imported from Japan, and are seeking to work with Gates to meet their needs for chopped material. DuPont is currently adding additional aramid capacity, as is Teijin, and we are aware of a new Korean competitor coming on line. This increased worldwide capacity will result in increasing price pressure on DuPont's business. S. 3070, if enacted, could lead to price erosion at the expense of our domestic manufacturing operations. Imports of Technora® para aramid fibers and product produced by the new entrant in Korea could result in price suppression and erode average U.S. selling prices. These lower prices would make it increasingly difficult for DuPont to continue to sustain and support future investment and growth opportunities in the United States.

DuPont remains willing to provide any additional information you may need in support of our opposition to S. 3070, and is most appreciative for the opportunity to express our views.

Very truly yours,

Elaine M. Olsen

cc: Mr. Larry Johnson  
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