

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 489

To amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to increase and adjust for inflation the maximum value of articles that may be imported duty-free by one person on one day, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 7, 2013

Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. WYDEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to increase and adjust for inflation the maximum value of articles that may be imported duty-free by one person on one day, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Low Value Shipment
5 Regulatory Modernization Act of 2013”.

1 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON DE MINIMIS INFORMAL**
2 **ENTRIES.**

3 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
4 ings:

5 (1) Modernizing international customs is crit-
6 ical for United States businesses of all sizes, con-
7 sumers in the United States, and the economic
8 growth of the United States.

9 (2) Higher thresholds for the value of articles
10 that may be entered informally and free of duty pro-
11 vide significant economic benefits to businesses and
12 consumers in the United States and the economy of
13 the United States through costs savings and reduc-
14 tions in trade transaction costs.

15 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
16 gress that the United States Trade Representative should
17 encourage other countries, through bilateral, regional, and
18 multilateral fora, to establish commercially meaningful de
19 minimis values for express and postal shipments that are
20 exempt from customs duties and taxes and from certain
21 entry documentation requirements, as appropriate.

1 **SEC. 3. INCREASE IN AND ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION OF**
 2 **MAXIMUM VALUE OF ARTICLES THAT MAY BE**
 3 **IMPORTED DUTY-FREE BY ONE PERSON ON**
 4 **ONE DAY.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 321 of the Tariff Act of
 6 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1321) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking subpara-
 8 graph (C) and inserting the following:

9 “(C) in any other case, the dollar amount
 10 specified in subsection (c).”; and

11 (2) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(c) ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT OF VALUE OF ARTICLES
 13 THAT MAY ENTER DUTY-FREE.—

14 “(1) DOLLAR AMOUNT SPECIFIED.—The dollar
 15 amount specified in this subsection is—

16 “(A) for calendar year 2014, \$800; and

17 “(B) subject to paragraph (2), for any cal-
 18 endar year after calendar year 2014, an amount
 19 equal to \$800 increased by an amount equal
 20 to—

21 “(i) \$800, multiplied by

22 “(ii) the percentage of the increase (if
 23 any) in the Consumer Price Index for the
 24 preceding calendar year compared to the
 25 Consumer Price Index for calendar year
 26 2013.

1 “(2) ROUNDING.—Any increase under para-
 2 graph (1) of the dollar amount specified in this sub-
 3 section shall be rounded to the nearest increment of
 4 \$50.

5 “(3) CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR ANY CAL-
 6 ENDAR YEAR.—For purposes of this subsection, the
 7 Consumer Price Index for any calendar year is the
 8 average of the Consumer Price Index as of the close
 9 of the 12-month period ending on September 30 of
 10 that calendar year.

11 “(4) CONSUMER PRICE INDEX DEFINED.—For
 12 purposes of this subsection, the term ‘Consumer
 13 Price Index’ means the last Consumer Price Index
 14 for All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau
 15 of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.”.

16 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 17 this section apply to articles entered, or withdrawn from
 18 warehouse for consumption, on or after January 1, 2014.

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