

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3340

To provide an exemption from certain import prohibitions.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 5, 1998

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. MATSUI, and Mr. GEJDENSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To provide an exemption from certain import prohibitions.

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. FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds that—

5 (1) gum arabic is a naturally occurring sub-
6 stance that is exuded from the stems and branches
7 of the acacia tree and is a key ingredient in pharma-
8 ceutical and dietary fiber products, lithography, bak-
9 ing and confectionary items, cosmetics, and soft
10 drinks, and has other industrial applications;

11 (2) gum arabic is a material for which, in many
12 cases, there is no natural or artificial substitute;

1 (3) gum arabic is harvested from wild acacia
2 trees, found mostly in Sudan and is harvested by
3 rural farmers who are removed from the internal
4 conflict and who depend upon the gum arabic har-
5 vest for their livelihood;

6 (4) Sudan is the most reliable and plentiful
7 source of gum arabic in the world, supplying 70 per-
8 cent of the world's consumption of gum arabic and
9 about 90 percent of the world's reliable source;

10 (5) Chad and Nigeria combined do not produce
11 a sufficient quantity of gum arabic to satisfy United
12 States demand for gum arabic; and

13 (6) without a consistent and reliable supply of
14 quality crude material, United States processors of
15 gum arabic will go out of business.

16 **SEC. 2. EXEMPTION FROM IMPORT PROHIBITION.**

17 Notwithstanding any other provision of law, Execu-
18 tive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, shall not apply
19 with respect to imports of articles described in Har-
20 monized Tariff Schedule headings 1301.20.00 and
21 1301.90.9090 during a calendar year, and no prohibition
22 on imports from Sudan in any other provision of law shall
23 apply to imports of such articles during a calendar year,
24 if—

- 1 (1) during the preceding calendar year, more
2 than 40 percent of the unprocessed articles imported
3 into the United States was attributable to crops cul-
4 tivated in Sudan, including crops imported from
5 countries other than source countries for gum ara-
6 bic; or
- 7 (2) during the preceding calendar year, a sup-
8 ply of the unprocessed articles of equal quality to
9 that cultivated in Sudan and not attributable to
10 Sudan is not available to supply more than 40 per-
11 cent of the United States import market.

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