



May 14th, 2013

The Honorable Doc Hastings  
Chairman, U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources  
1203 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

**Re: Support for H.R. 957, American Soda Ash Competitiveness Act**

Dear Chairman Hastings:

On behalf of the Glass Packaging Institute (GPI), the trade association for the glass container manufacturers of beverage and food containers, as well as suppliers to our collective industry, I would like to ask for your support of H.R. 957, the American Soda Ash Competitiveness Act, which is scheduled to be considered tomorrow by your Committee.

The glass container industry employs tens of thousands of Americans in 48 operating glass container manufacturing plants throughout the country. The U.S. soda ash industry is a critical supplier and partner of the glass container industry, as soda ash is used as part of our manufacturing processes on a daily basis.

H.R. 957 is a vital piece of legislation that will help to ensure the competitiveness of the U.S. soda ash industry, and to the companies they supply, through return of the royalty rate to 2% for five years, for all outputs of sodium compounds, including soda ash, on federal land. The royalty rate tripled in October of 2011 to 6%.

The U.S. possesses the largest reserves of soda ash (essential to glass production and other industrial uses) in the world. On average, domestic soda ash production processes emit about 25% less greenhouse gas emissions than synthetic soda ash plants in the rest of the world. Additionally, soda ash mined and processed on federal lands contributes nearly one billion dollars annually to our balance of trade and twenty million dollars in federal royalties.

This legislation also supports export-related jobs, as one of every two jobs in the soda ash industry is directly attributable to these exports. An increase in production and exports would also add to the revenue paid back to the Treasury Department through the royalty rate.

Internationally, China is providing a 9% rebate back to its VAT for Chinese companies that produce synthetic soda ash, which utilizes a much more energy intensive and resulting increased emissions process.

Glass container manufacturers and our domestic soda ash partners depend on each other to ensure continued success of our industries and the tens of thousands of jobs we collectively support. We hope you and your Committee will favorably consider this legislation.

Please contact me should you have any questions or concerns regarding our position on H.R. 957.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynn M. Bragg".

Lynn M. Bragg  
President

Cc: The Honorable Cynthia Lummis