

***** *SAMPLE LETTER* *****
(print on your company letterhead)

(Date)

The Honorable _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative _____:

As a member of the American Furniture Manufacturers Association (AFMA), I was very pleased to learn that a bipartisan caucus has been created on Capitol Hill to focus attention on the challenges facing domestic furniture manufacturers. Given the residential furniture industry's contributions to our state, I encourage you to join the Congressional Furnishings Caucus, which is co-chaired by Rep. Howard Coble (R-NC) and Rep. Mel Watt (D-NC). It's my understand that the Caucus now has nearly 30 members, from both sides of the political aisle, representing different regions of the country.

The mission of the caucus is simple – to educate and engage Members of Congress on issues that directly affect the ability of domestic manufacturers to compete effectively in the expanding global market, especially against the flood of low-cost imports from Asia. In addition to considering how federal legislation and regulation impact American manufacturers, the caucus will also provide a forum for sharing information about new initiatives and developments in the industry, such as AFMA's efforts to address work-related ergonomics issues and to make the furniture manufacturing process more environmentally conscious through the "EFEC" certification program – *Enhancing Furniture's Environmental Culture* – which EPA has recognized as an effective environmental management system.

It's my hope that the caucus will act as a clearinghouse for ideas that can be translated into positive legislative action. Your participation will help ensure that the needs of **[Your State's]** home furnishings manufacturers and their employees will not be overlooked as future government policies are developed.

Thank you for your consideration. For further information on joining the caucus, please have your staff contact Robbie Boone in Rep. Coble's office, at (202) 225-3065, or Laura Hooper in Rep. Watt's office, at (202) 225-1510.

Sincerely,