

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to make the Postmaster General the importer of record for non-letter class mail and to require the provision of advance electronic information about shipments of non-letter class mail to U.S. Customs and Border Protection and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. PORTMAN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to make the Postmaster General the importer of record for non-letter class mail and to require the provision of advance electronic information about shipments of non-letter class mail to U.S. Customs and Border Protection 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 TITLES.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Synthetics Trafficking
5 and Overdose Prevention Act of 2016” or the “STOP Act
6 of 2016”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENTS TO UNITED STATES MAIL SECU-**
2 **RITY.**

3 (a) IMPORTER OF RECORD.—Subparagraph (B) of
4 section 484(a)(2) of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C.
5 1484(a)(2)(B)) is amended to read as follows:

6 “(B)(i) When an entry of merchandise is made
7 under this section, the required documentation or in-
8 formation shall be filed or electronically trans-
9 mitted—

10 “(I) by the owner or purchaser of the mer-
11 chandise;

12 “(II) when appropriately designated by the
13 owner, purchaser, or consignee of the merchan-
14 dise, by a person holding a valid license under
15 section 641; or

16 “(III) in the case of non-letter class mail,
17 by the Postmaster General or a designee of the
18 Postmaster General, which may include a per-
19 son holding a valid license under section 641.

20 “(ii) When a consignee declares on entry that
21 he or she is the owner or purchaser of merchandise,
22 U.S. Customs and Border Protection may, without
23 liability, accept the declaration.

24 “(iii) For the purposes of this Act, the importer
25 of record must be one of the parties who is eligible

1 to file the documentation or information required by
2 this section.

3 “(iv) In this subparagraph, the term ‘non-letter
4 class mail’ means any product of the United States
5 Postal Service or a Universal Postal Union des-
6 ignated operator that is provided pursuant to—

7 “(I) the Universal Postal Union’s Parcel
8 Post Regulations and Final Protocol; or

9 “(II) the Universal Postal Union’s Letter
10 Post Regulations and Final Protocol, except
11 ‘small letters’ as defined in Article RL 124(1),
12 as such regulations were in effect on the date
13 of the enactment of the Synthetics Trafficking
14 and Overdose Prevention Act of 2016.”.

15 (b) INFORMAL ENTRIES.—Section 498 of the Tariff
16 Act of 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1498) is amended by adding at
17 the end the following:

18 “(c) REGULATIONS RELATED TO INFORMAL CUS-
19 TOMS ENTRIES.—

20 “(1) REQUIREMENT.—Notwithstanding any
21 other provision of law, not later than six months
22 after the date of the enactment of the Synthetics
23 Trafficking and Overdose Prevention Act of 2016,
24 the Secretary of the Treasury shall issue regulations
25 to require the Postmaster General or designee of the

1 Postmaster General, which may include a person
2 holding a valid license under section 641, to file in-
3 formal customs entries for all non-letter class mail
4 that meets the informal entry requirements of this
5 section and subpart C of part 143 of title 19, Code
6 of Federal Regulations.

7 “(2) NON-LETTER CLASS MAIL.—In this sub-
8 section, the term ‘non-letter class mail’ has the
9 meaning given that term in section
10 484(a)(2)(B)(iv).”.

11 (c) DE MINIMIS SHIPMENTS.—

12 (1) REDUCTION OR MODIFICATION OF EXEMP-
13 TION.—Section 321 of the Tariff Act of 1930 (19
14 U.S.C. 1321) is amended by adding at the end the
15 following:

16 “(c) The Postmaster General or a designee of the
17 Postmaster General, which may include a person holding
18 a valid license under section 641, shall be designated as
19 the importer of record for non-letter class mail (as that
20 term is defined in section 484(a)(2)(B)(iv)) that is subject
21 to the regulations issued pursuant to subsection (a) or
22 (b).”.

23 (2) REGULATIONS.—Not later than six months
24 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-

1 retary of the Treasury shall issue regulations to im-
2 plement the amendment made by paragraph (1).

3 (3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
4 by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the date that
5 is nine months after the date of the enactment of
6 this Act.

7 (d) CUSTOMS FEES.—Paragraph (6) of section
8 13031(a) of the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconcili-
9 ation Act of 1985 (19 U.S.C. 58c(a)(6)) is amended to
10 read as follows:

11 “(6)(A) Except as provided in subparagraph
12 (B), for each item of dutiable mail for which a docu-
13 ment is prepared by a customs officer, \$5.

14 “(B) For the arrival of each item of any non-
15 letter class mail (as that term is defined in clause
16 (iv) of section 484(a)(2)(B) of the Tariff Act of
17 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1484(a)(2)(B)), \$1.”.

18 (e) MANDATORY ADVANCED ELECTRONIC INFORMA-
19 TION FOR NON-LETTER CLASS MAIL.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (K) of section
21 343(a)(3) of the Trade Act of 2002 (Public Law
22 107–210; 19 U.S.C. 2071 note) is amended to read
23 as follows:

24 “(K) The Secretary shall require the Post-
25 master General to provide the information re-

1 required in paragraphs (1) and (2) to U.S. Cus-
2 toms and Border Protection for any non-letter
3 class mail (as that term is defined in clause (iv)
4 of section 484(a)(2)(B) of the Tariff Act of
5 1930 (19 U.S.C. 1484(a)(2)(B)) imported into
6 the United States.”.

7 (2) REGULATIONS.—Not later than six months
8 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
9 retary of the Treasury shall issue regulations to
10 carry out subparagraph (K) of section 343(a)(3) of
11 the Trade Act of 2002, as amended by paragraph
12 (1).

13 (f) LIMITATION ON INTERNATIONAL POSTAL AR-
14 RANGEMENTS.—The Secretary of State may not conclude
15 any international postal arrangement pursuant to the au-
16 thority set out in section 407 of title 39, United States
17 Code, that is inconsistent with this Act or any amendment
18 made by this Act.