

## MASS SPECTROMETER FOR UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

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Mr. LONG of Louisiana, from the Committee on Finance, submitted  
the following

### R E P O R T

[To accompany H. R. 3126]

The Committee on Finance, to which was referred the bill (H.R. 3126) to provide for the free entry of one mass spectrometer for the University of Washington, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

#### PURPOSE

The purpose of H. R. 3126 is to allow the University of Washington to import free of duty a scientific instrument for its own use.

#### GENERAL STATEMENT

H. R. 3126 would direct the Secretary of the Treasury to admit free of duty a mass spectrometer for the use of the University of Washington.

A mass spectrometer is a device used by chemists and chemical engineers to provide chemical analyses, measurements, and other research features. They are ordinarily built to specifications to meet particular requirements of the user. In the use of a mass spectrometer, the material to be studied is subjected to an ionizing process after which the ions formed are physically separated according to mass by electromagnetic means so that a mass spectrum is produced.

Your committee is advised that no comparable instrument made in the United States is available. The Department of Commerce has stated with respect to this bill:

After careful consideration, the Department is of the opinion that at the time the University of Washington determined its requirements and specifications for a mass spectrometer, no instrument of equivalent scientific value was available from domestic producers of this instrument.

The University of Washington requires a mass spectrometer for conducting basic research in environmental health under varying working conditions. Of the two domestic manufacturers of this instrument, only one manufacturer's instrument was considered suitable for the required research. A comparison between the domestic instrument and the imported instrument selected by the university indicates that the imported instrument is superior with respect to resolution, scanning speed, sensitivity, and focusing. These four characteristics are essential to conducting research in environmental health.

In the circumstances, the Committee on Finance, like the Committee on Ways and Means of the House, is of the opinion that this legislation is meritorious and consistent with prior legislation of this nature and recommends its enactment.

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