



Washington, D.C. and San Borja, Peru

February 9, 2012

Dear Minister Silva and Ambassador Kirk:

On behalf of the U.S and Peru apparel producers and brands, we strongly support the negotiation of a 21st century Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement. In order to achieve this goal the TPP must include commercially meaningful rules and recognize the importance of global value chains. We call on the negotiators to recognize the need for simple and flexible rules of origin.

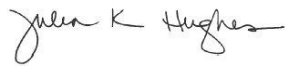
Restrictive rules such as the "yarn forward" rule of origin - which require all the materials that go into a garment to originate and be assembled in a TPP country to receive tariff-free treatment - are unworkable in today's fashion industry apparel value chains.

We look forward to working with you and the TPP negotiators to develop a TPP agreement that supports the fashion industry global value chain for global apparel brands, manufacturers, retailers and consumers.

HUMBERTO FRAVEGA  
CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON CLOTHING  
EXPORTERS' ASSOCIATION (Asociacion de Exportadores)

Kevin M. Burke, President & CEO, American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)

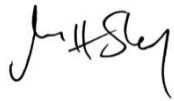
Frank Hugelmeyer, President & CEO, Outdoor Industry Association (OIA)



Julia K. Hughes, President, United States Association of Importers of Textiles & Apparel (USA-ITA)



Sandra L. Kennedy, President, Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA)



Matthew R. Shay, President & CEO, National Retail Federation (NRF)