



we wearSM trade

March 29, 2012

Lic. Bruno Ferrari García de Alba, Secretario
Secretaría de Economía
Alfonso Reyes No. 30
Col. Hipódromo Condesa C.P. 06140,
Delegación Cuauhtémoc
México D.F. MEXICO

Dear Secretary Ferrari:

On behalf of the American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA) I am writing to request additional information regarding the agreement reached between the nations of China and Mexico regarding footwear imports into Mexico.

AAFA is the national trade association representing apparel, footwear, and other sewn products companies, and their suppliers, which compete in the global market. AAFA's members produce, market, and sell apparel and footwear in virtually every country around the world, including Mexico. That being said, many AAFA members source footwear in China for the Mexican market and therefore have a strong interest in this agreement.

We applaud you for avoiding the imposition of safeguard duties on footwear and choosing instead to reach a solution that is beneficial for all parties involved. However, it has come to our attention that few details of the agreement have been made public. We ask you to please provide as much clarity on the terms of this agreement as possible so that our members will be able to satisfy the requirements to their full extent. Specifically, we are looking for details on how this agreement will affect businesses from third party countries, such as the United States, who manufacture footwear in China to be sold in Mexico.

AAFA's U.S. brands and retailers currently represent thousands of Mexican jobs and we greatly value Mexico as a trade partner for U.S. companies. We have taken several steps in the past year to encourage a strengthened economic relationship between the United States and Mexico. We asked the U.S. Department of Transportation to restart the cross-border long-haul trucking pilot program and continue to urge that it be made permanent. We have also publicly supported Mexico's participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) Free Trade Agreement.

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AAFA will continue to support initiatives that reduce trade barriers and encourage the economic growth of both Mexico and the United States. Once again, we would greatly appreciate any information you can provide us on this current agreement.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. Please contact Marie D'Avignon of my staff at 703-797-9038 or by email at mdavignon@wewear.org if you have any questions or if we can be of any help to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin M. Burke". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K" and "B".

Kevin M. Burke
President & CEO
American Apparel & Footwear Association Organization