



NATIONAL TEXTILE ASSOCIATION

May 12, 2010

The Honorable Sander Levin
Chairman
Committee on Ways & Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are writing to request your support of a much-needed technical fix to legislation that provides special tariff rules for certain wool products.

Since its original enactment as part of the Trade Act of 2000, the wool legislation has been of critical importance to all domestic wool fiber, yarn, fabric and apparel manufacturers. It represents a very carefully crafted compromise, supported by all interested parties in the wool production chain which employs nearly 120,000 workers nationwide. It should be noted that in addition to serving the commercial marketplace, the domestic wool sector is an important supplier of uniforms to the United States military.

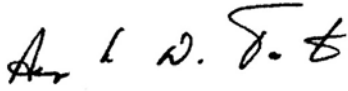
A key aspect of the program involves duty refund payments administered by the Customs & Border Patrol (CBP). These payments are financed by duty collections from Chapter 51 of the Harmonized Tariff System. Unfortunately, duty collections in Chapter 51 have dropped precipitously in recent years, resulting in a significant shortfall in refund payments this past April. Consequently, we support a technical modification to the funding source for the wool program in order to rectify the duty shortfall problem and accomplish the Congressional intent behind the program and its recent extensions.

Using duties collected under Chapter 62 would be a logical candidate to finance this program because it contains among other things, tariff collections on wool suits and trousers that enter the United States. Please note that this technical change will not increase the cost of the program, but will simply insure that the program's obligations are adequately met.

We thank you for your past support of this important program and strongly believe that without its existence the overwhelming majority of employment associated this important

agricultural and industrial complex would have been off-shored over the past decade. For all these reasons, we greatly appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Augustine D. Tantillo
Executive Director
AMTAC



David Trumbull
Vice President, International Trade
National Textile Association



Cass M. Johnson
President
National Council of Textile Organizations



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



Peter Orwick
Executive Director
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