



Key Vote
YES ON H.J. Res 83

July 14, 2010

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA) – the national trade association of the apparel and footwear industries and their suppliers – I am writing to advise you that AAFA has key voted as a YES VOTE House consideration of H.J. Res 83, to renew the import restrictions contained in the *Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003*.

I strongly urge you to vote **YES** on this important legislation.

This renewal will send a clear and unmistakable message that the United States is not interested in doing business with regimes such as the one that brutally enslaves the people of Burma.

The *Burmese Freedom and Democracy Act of 2003* included a total ban on imports from Burma. The import ban will expire unless Congress passes, and the President signs into law, legislation to renew the ban by July 26.

Despite our efforts, the ruling military junta in Burma has shown no willingness to address the many problems that made these sanctions necessary. Indeed, as the most recent U.S. State Department Human Rights Report states, the ruling military junta continues to routinely infringe on citizens' privacy and restricted freedom of speech, press, assembly, association, religion and movement.

In light of the upcoming multi-party elections and the ruling military junta's ban on participation in those elections by the general secretary of the National League for Democracy (NLD), Aung San Suu Kyi, or her party, the party that won the last multi-party elections in 1990 by a landslide, we believe that now is the time to reinforce our sanctions tools against Burma's government.

It is apparent that unilateral sanctions have only a limited effect if other nations continue to trade with the military junta. Therefore, while we remain the first and only trade association to publicly support a total U.S. import ban against Burma, we are trying to multilateralize U.S. sanctions against Burma. Only when Burma's government is confronted by a world united, will freedom truly come to the Burmese people.

I urge you to **VOTE YES** on H.J. Res 83 to continue U.S. sanctions against the military junta ruling Burma.

Sincerely,

Kevin M. Burke
President and CEO