



November 18, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Senate Majority Leader  
S-221, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Minority Leader  
S-231, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-107, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner  
Republican Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressional Leaders:

On behalf of the U.S. textile and apparel supply chain, the undersigned organizations are writing to urge you to renew the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act (ATPDEA) as soon as possible during the post-election session of Congress. The current ATPDEA is set to expire on December 31, 2010.

To provide much needed business certainty, we believe this program should be renewed for at least two years, preferably longer.

Swift action on this initiative is vitally important.

As you may know, the Andean region remains a critical market for U.S. textiles, supporting tens of thousands of U.S. jobs. These export markets function primarily because we in turn provide duty free access to the U.S. market for their textile and apparel products when they incorporate U.S.-made yarns, fabrics, fibers, and other textile inputs.

Exports of U.S. yarns are up 74 percent for the first 7 months of 2010 over the same period in 2009. U.S. fabrics have enjoyed nearly 20 percent growth during that same period.

These gains, however, are at risk if the current trade partnership is interrupted because the Andean program is allowed to lapse.

The sustainable solution to promoting this hemispheric partnership lies in the U.S./Peru Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which has been implemented, and the U.S./Colombia FTA, which has yet to be approved. When fully implemented, these agreements will help create a permanent two-way duty free partnership between U.S. and Andean textile and apparel producers. In fact, we strongly urge that Congress take up and pass the U.S./Colombia FTA at the first available opportunity.

But this long term stability cannot be realized if the United States allows the Andean program, on which much of the current partnership is presently based, to lapse in the meantime.

You can help preserve good jobs in the U.S. textile and apparel manufacturing, wholesale and retail industries by working swiftly to approve an Andean extension now.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA)  
American Fiber Manufacturers Association (AFMA)  
Carpet and Rug Institute (CRI)  
Georgia Traditional Manufacturers Association (GTMA)  
The Hosiery Association (THA)  
INDA, Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry  
National Cotton Council (NCC)  
National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO)  
National Retail Federation (NRF)  
Outdoor Industry Association (OIA)  
Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA)  
South Carolina Manufacturers Alliance (SCMA)  
Sewn Products Equipment & Suppliers of the Americas (SPESA)  
Travel Goods Association (TGA)  
US Association of Importers of Textiles and Apparel (USA-ITA)

cc: The Honorable Max Baucus, Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance  
The Honorable Sander Levin, Chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means  
The Honorable Charles Grassley, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on  
Finance  
The Honorable Dave Camp, Ranking Member, House Committee on Ways and  
Means