



we wear® global markets

April 23, 2015

The Honorable John Thune
Chairman
Senate Commerce, Science,
and Transportation Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Nelson
Ranking Member
Senate Commerce, Science,
and Transportation Committee
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Thune and Ranking Member Nelson:

On behalf of the American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA), I urge the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee to confirm the pending nomination of Mario Cordero as a Commissioner of the Federal Maritime Commission (FMC).

Representing more than 1,000 world famous name brands, the American Apparel & Footwear Association (AAFA) is the trusted public policy and political voice of the apparel and footwear industry, its management and shareholders, its four million U.S. workers, and its contribution of \$361 billion in annual U.S. retail sales.

President Barack Obama re-nominated Mr. Cordero as a FMC Commissioner in January 2015.

During his tenure as FMC Chair, Mr. Cordero has drawn upon his experience in the maritime community to ensure that the FMC plays an active role in addressing rampant problems in U.S. ports. Under his leadership, the FMC's industry forums and actions on carrier "congestion surcharges" have been very helpful to the shipping community.

Virtually all the clothes and shoes sold in the United States today enter through the nation's ports. Our industry and the U.S. economy as whole depends on open and operational ports. For that reason, it is imperative we continue to have strong leadership at the FMC.

We urge the committee to schedule a vote and confirm Mario Cordero as an FMC Commissioner as soon as possible.


Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter. Please contact David Lapidus of my staff at 703-797-9049 or

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dlapidus@wewear.org if you have any questions or would like additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Juanita D. Duggan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Juanita D. Duggan
President and CEO
American Apparel & Footwear Association